

The
Regimental Association
of
The Queen's Own Buffs (PWRR)



THE JOURNAL

Number 23

Spring 2012



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Front Cover: The Right Reverend Dr R Willis DL receiving the Denmark Standard from Bryan Dudman prior to the service of Remembrance.

Photograph courtesy of Barry Duffield



The Queen's Own Buffs Maidstone Reunion 2011

The photographs featured in this issue are, in the main courtesy of Barry Duffield

EDITOR'S PAGE

The Journal in its current, familiar format has now been produced for 11 years: where has the time gone? Over the years the distribution initially held steady and indeed actually grew from time to time. However the list has now shrunk significantly, whilst, at the same time, around 130 of our readers have "forgotten" to pay their subscriptions. It has to be said that to continually chase these non payers is a time consuming and top heavy administrative burden.

Apart from this, costs have inevitably risen and we have now reached a point where we have to review the economics of the situation. Consequently the Journal will now be published once a year - in the winter - and as promised in the last Journal it will be distributed free of charge. It is unfair to expect the 370 who do pay their dues to subsidise those who either forget or choose not to pay.

We also have to consider how best to communicate with ALL of our Association members of which there are still over 1,200 listed on the database. Currently there is no communication mechanism in place to ensure that they get information about the Association and its events unless, of course, they receive the Journal or are a member of a branch. Therefore we will be publishing an annual 'Information Newsletter' (tabloid style). It will be published each Spring to advise all members as to what is going on within the Association generally, with details of reunions and similar events and how everyone can participate. Once again this will be produced and distributed at no cost to individual members.

You may of course decide to maintain your subscription as a donation to the important work of the Association. If that is the case we will be very grateful indeed.

The production of the Journal is very much a team effort and I have to thank a whole host of people and first and foremost must be Elaine and John at the Printers on the Lake. Their continuing advice, technical support, design, helpfulness and very competitive print costings allow us to produce a Journal with print and presentation of a very high quality.

Also a big thank you to those who have submitted articles and photographs. Without them the Journal would be a boring old read. Talking about

photographs, I must make mention of Barry and Madeline Duffield. Barry, a professional photographer, and Madeline (PR) have supported the Association unstintingly in attending, photographing and reporting nearly all of our events. The fact that I have been able to use a great number of very high quality photos within the Journal is down to Barry. Moreover Madeline's expertise in PR has meant that most of our larger events have received the publicity in local papers that they deserve. Many, many thanks to you both.

Last but by no means least, my thanks go to the Branch secretaries who submit their branch notes, I know it is a bit of chore at times, guys, but it really is appreciated.

You will find a number of enclosures in this issue and one of them refers to Gift Aid. Your past subscriptions to the Journal can now be classed as a donation and, as we have Constituent Charity status within the existing PWRR Charity, we can reclaim the tax that has been paid on these as well as future subscriptions. If you are a UK tax payer I would ask you to complete the form and send to me at your earliest convenience. Many thanks.

As you will see in 'Last Post' we have lost a considerable number of our colleagues in the past few months. What is always so evident at these times of great sadness and loss is the many examples of extraordinary and selfless support that members give their colleagues and their families when the need arises. When members fall ill, are hospitalised, lose a loved one or who are lonely and just need companionship, there always seems to be one or more of their colleagues on hand to help (providing, of course, they know). As we all get older and the years take their toll, the need for such support by individual members, branches and indeed the Association itself, will increase. We can be confident, encouraged and indeed proud of the fact that the Association and its members will not be found wanting. That's really what it is all about.

As you will be aware 2012 sees celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. It also the 440th anniversary of the review by Queen Elizabeth I of the Trained Bands of London on 1st May 1572 from which The Buffs are descended. The salute at the Canterbury Reunion this year will be taken by the newly appointed Lord Lieutenant of Kent who is a direct descendant

of Colonel Philip Sydney, the first commanding officer of The Holland Regiment. Let's make the Canterbury Reunion a special one this year by turning up in large numbers.

The Editor.

BRANCH NEWS

RAMSGATE BRANCH

SECRETARY: M. F. Milham. 185 Bradstow Way Broadstairs, Kent. CT10 1AX

MEETING PLACE: The Royal British Legion Club Allenby House, 14/16 Cliff Street, Ramsgate

MEETING: 3rd Friday in the month, 19.45 hrs.

After 21 years as our branch Chairman, John Ferneyhough suddenly sprung his resignation on us, just two days after our August meeting, not only that, but he has left us and moved over to Canterbury. We thank him for all he has done at Ramsgate over the years and wish him good luck for the future.

Our Vice Chairman, John Phillips, is now in the chair, receiving the full support of the Committee as well as the members of the branch. His first job at our September meeting was to welcome a new member, Mr Ron Bushell, into the branch. Ron is ex RAOC and 5th Bn The Buffs TA. Then, just to keep our new chairman on his toes, we were in the final six weeks of planning for our annual dinner and dance. With winter now creeping up on us, a few faces we have not seen for some time have started to attend our meetings again, as have the Canterbury members who have finished their bowls season. Our sick list has held steady, although Deric King, our former Welfare Officer, has now joined them by damaging his shoulder when he had a fall. We have just heard that John Jane has been in hospital for the past three weeks, we wish him and all of our other sick members a speedy recovery.

All of the events held throughout the summer seem to have been a success. Some were complaining of sore throats after singing their heads off at the Canterbury Reunion. Many a diet seems to have gone by the board at Maidstone and our tourist photo models had another good day at the Tower of London. However that day ended

with an unintended visit to Bluewater, owing to the weather. Our dinner and dance was once again held at North Foreland Golf Club, with the best attendance for a couple of years now, when 80 people sat down to dinner. The raffle took a little longer than usual with 56 prizes to sort out, although the number of those dancing seems to have dropped over the years.

Our Standard has had a busy year again, with Alan Buddle having attended everything we have asked him to attend. Always smartly turned out, he was really chuffed when the President presented him with an unexpected bottle at the conclusion of his after dinner speech. Brian Hazard our new Welfare Officer and his helper, Lennie Elks, have carried on from Deric Kings days by visiting as many of our sick members as possible. They are also making contact with as many as possible of our members who no longer attend our meetings, to see if there is anything they need.

All of us at Ramsgate hope that you had a very merry Christmas and wish you a brilliant 2012 and we look forward to seeing you all fit and well at next years events.

SITTINGBOURNE BRANCH

SECRETARY: Mr. A Chesson. 16 Cedar Close, Sittingbourne, ME10 4TV

MEETING PLACE: The Ypres Tavern, West Street, Sittingbourne

MEETING: 1st Tuesday in the month at 19.30 hours.

Greetings to all from Sittingbourne Branch.

Once again I must begin the notes with a feeling of great sadness, no less than three of our members have died. In June, Harry Ashcroft, one of our older Associate members died. Harry (92) served throughout the 2nd World War in the East Lancashire Regiment and took part in the D Day landings. Harry, under five feet, always joked about stepping of the landing craft and promptly sinking below the water whilst everyone else waded ashore. Our treasurer, Ray Collins attended our September meeting as usual but was obviously unwell, he left at the end and one of our Members, Ted Jordan, accompanied him on the journey to Sheerness, on the way Ray suddenly pulled the car over, stopped and collapsed. Despite the efforts of Ted, members

of the public and the Ambulance crew Ray sadly died at the scene. Ray had served for some forty years in the TA, as a Bomb Disposal expert in the Royal Engineers, attaining the rank of Sergeant Major.

Both Harry and Ray were given funerals with full Military Honours attended by almost every member of the Branch. Finally in the last two weeks I have been informed that Dave Pope, a member of the Branch for many years has also died, Dave served in the Royal West Kents during the war and as he was proficient in Morse code was attached to Signals dealing with messages from members of SOE. All three will be sadly missed and our thoughts and condolences go out to the families and friends of each of them.

We have one new member in the Branch, Graham McDonough, who served in the Queen's Own Buffs and The Queen's. Welcome Graham. We have one resignation to report, Ian Underwood, who has resigned from the Branch and the Association. Our new Treasurer is Richard Cast, who volunteered and took over the post following Ray Collins passing.

A full coach of members, families and friends travelled to Ypres on 9th July for our Annual Pilgrimage to the Menin Gate, we stayed at the Novotel as usual. Saturday was taken up by a visit by some members to the China Wall Cemetery, whilst others remained and explored Ypres and its museums. Following our evening meal all attended the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, a most moving service. Wreaths were laid including that of our Association and others.

On Sunday visits were made to the Tyne Cot Cemetery, where prayers were said, followed by a minutes Silence, it was then off to other various battlefield sites and cemeteries. We were accompanied throughout by a guide Jaques, whose encyclopedic knowledge of the First World War made it even more interesting than usual. Around lunchtime we arrived at Zonnebeke and the Paschendael Museum. What a really good weekend it was and our thanks go out to Paul Fleming, our Social Secretary, for all his work in ensuring the visit was such a success.

Saturday 1st October and some fourteen members, families and friends attended the Union Jack Club for the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Queen's Own Buffs. Good food, good service

and good company made it a splendid day. The Branch would like to express its thanks to Major John Barrell for all his hard work in arranging the event.

Finally Sittingbourne Branch would like to send Best Wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year to all members of The Regimental Association wherever they are.

GD

COLCHESTER BRANCH

SECRETARY: G. Arnot. 30 Cairns Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8UZ. Tel: 01206 520145

MEETING PLACE: Clovely, Great Bentley, Colchester, Essex C17 8PD

MEETING: 3rd Tuesday in the month at 14.00 hrs.

A warm welcome goes to all readers from the Colchester Branch and we would like to wish all readers a prosperous New Year.

We start by hoping that Graham Arnot makes a good recovery from his emergency operation he had in January and we must say thank you to the Regimental Association for the assistance they have given to make his live easier. We also send our best wishes to Mr J Nash, J Smith, the daughters of Mr N Stone and Mr G Hesketh all suffering from some form of cancer. We also pass on our best wishes to Brenda Warren wife of Buggy (Ramsgate Branch) that her treatment goes well Others we would like to wish well are Mr and Mrs Hollist, Mrs M Arnot, Mrs Hansen and Mrs McGrath after her shoulder operation,

Last Christmas we changed from having a dinner to a buffet dance, which went well, and we were asked to do the same in the future. Once again, we had a good turnout for our Albuhera Dinner in May, when 30 sat down for a good meal and evening, both of the functions took place at the Musket Club. There was also a good turnout for our Bar-B-Q which was once again held at Scouse Sturgeon's home, some of those attending were from other Branches and there were quite a few tents on site. We are now waiting for this year's Christmas Party and once again hope for a good turn out.

Once again, our reunions have passed and we would like to thank both committees for all the

hard work they put in throughout the year. Both were well organized and well attended. There were two surprises at Canterbury this year when Mr Jim Burr and Mr Graham Arnot both received a certificate of meritorious service to the Regimental Association. Although I sadly missed the one at Maidstone owing to there being too many hills in the town for my wife to push the wheelchair (which I have borrowed) and I find this very useful to get around, but it puts a strain on my wife.

All there is to do now is to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

GA

CANTERBURY BRANCH

SECRETARY: H. G. B. Delo. 38 Reculver Avenue, Minnis Bay, Birchington CT7 9NU.
Tel: 01843 842357

MEETING PLACE: The Chaucer Club, Chaucer Hill, off Military Road, Canterbury.

MEETING: Last Thursday of month at 20.00 hrs.

The second half of 2011 started off with the Canterbury Reunion which once again was well supported and we would like to thank the Quarter Master of 3 PWRR for organising the new lay out at Leros Barracks we also thank Major Dennis Bradley for his organisation of the excellent lunches etc. We thank Bernard Miles and his helpers for the large raffle, they sold £900 of tickets and the cash going directly back to Association funds and not as some people think to Branch funds. The Canterbury reunion Committee must be thanked for all their work preparing the seating etc. and clearing up at the end of an excellent day.

Congratulations to Mr Brian(Sammy) Supple and Mr Alf Baker on receiving the Associations Meritorious Certificates from Col Champion the Association President.

In September the Branch along with the Ramsgate Branch made the annual visit to the London Branch's Tower Parade and Service of Remembrance and we thank the London Branch for their invitation, as we always look forward to attending this parade and service and listening to the excellent choir. Well done London.

Two members of the Branch who served in the Royal West Kents along with their wives attended the Maidstone reunion which I am told was a very good day, A good march to the church for the remembrance service followed by a very good lunch organised by Major Bradley.

Armistice weekend in Canterbury was a very busy one starting with the Royal British Legions Cenotaph dedication in the Canterbury Longmarket on the Thursday evening, both our standards were in attendance and a poppy cross was planted by Mr Bernard Miles on behalf of the Branch.

On Armistice day 11th November, a special Page Turning ceremony was organised with the short service being conducted by the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, Mr Alf Baker stuck the Canterbury Ship Bell at 11.00 hours followed by two minutes silence, last Post and Reveille was sounded by a bugler from 3 PWRR. Four Standards were paraded Canterbury, Denmark and Sandwich and London Branch, Poppy wreaths were laid by Col M Ball (PWRR), Col Champion (QOB) Mr G Croxford BEM. (Queen's), Col C West (Friends of the Buffs) Major. P White MM. (Canadian Rifles) and Mr B Reynard (Kent Yeomanry). The Page of the Book was turned by Mr R Spoore and the Canadian Book by Major. P White MM. There was an excellent turnout of members I thank everyone who attended to make this a very special day. This service was organised by the Branch Secretary for which he was thanked by everyone.

The main parade to the Cathedral for the Remembrance service took a shorter route this year which was appreciated by everyone marching. It is hoped that this will be a regular thing. After the Service the parade formed up to march past the Lord Mayor in the High Street and when the parade was dismissed at the Greyfriars all members of the Branch along with their wives and friends went to the Canterbury Golf Club for a very enjoyable carvery luncheon, in all 48 Person attended.

The Branch Carol Service on Sunday 11th December was not very well supported this year which was very disappointing. Our Branch padre Rev Keith Fazzani was unable to conduct the service as he was undergoing an operation in a London hospital but he very kindly organised for another vicar to take the service which was greatly appreciated.

The Canterbury Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress attended along with Colonel and Mrs Champion, Colonel and Mrs Bishop Major and Mrs. White and all officers of the Branch and members along with members from the Ramsgate, London and Sandwich Branch's. their support was appreciated. We thank Sammy Supple for parading the Branch Standard.

On Saturday 10th December we held our Christmas Dinner and Social again at the Canterbury Golf Club once again this was a very successful evening with good food and good music played by Mr Ken Burrows he always gives us a good sing-along programme during the evening. Everyone who attended enjoyed themselves in the lead up to the Christmas celebrations.

Our sick list at the moment is very small but unfortunately during the last 5 months we have lost seven of our members ie. Maj. Derek Poulsen MBE (Branch Life Vice President) Mr Ray Cox (Canterbury & London Branch) Mr Eric Hood Mr Peter Inglis, Mr Peter Robinson, Mr Wally Thundow and Mr Ken Vine. All these men were staunch members of the Branch and will be sadly missed.

May I on behalf of the Canterbury Branch wish everyone far and near a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year and we look forward to all the events which will be taking place in 2012.

HD

LONDON (BUFFS) BRANCH

SECRETARY: Mrs.. Betty Correa. 34 Homer Road, Shirley, Croydon, Surrey CR0 7SB. Tel No. 0208 655 3040. Email jcorrea@talk 21.com

MEETING PLACE: The Union Jack Club Disney Room 23rd Floor Sandell Street London -Opposite Waterloo Station

MEETING: 3rd Saturday in the month at 2 pm.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF MEETING VENUE TO THE UNION JACK CLUB.

Welcome to the latest news from the London Buffs.

The last few months has had its ups and it's downs but the London Buffs soldier on.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Ray Cox (Branch Social Officer) on 13th October 2011, Mrs Eileen Baker (wife of the former branch president Ray Baker) on 29th October 2011 and Major Patrick Gwilliam on 14th December 2011 all gave their full support to the London Buffs and will be sadly missed. The families also appreciated the support given to them from the London Buffs at this sad time.

Now to up-date you with some good news.

Some of our members have taken part in a number of significant association events in 2011. The trip to Albuhera to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the epic battle in which predecessors in the Buffs fought so gallantly.

The annual reunions at Canterbury and Maidstone again well attended and enjoyed by many of us.

The London Buffs Tower Service and Branch annual reunion luncheon had excellent feedback as everyone in attendance including our guests said what an enjoyable day they had had.

It was also a special day for the Branch Standard Bearer Joe Correa as he was awarded a Meritorious Service Certificate. Joe was overwhelmed and very surprised and felt very honoured and was also speechless (that's a first). The certificate has now taken pride of place in our home.

There was also a short official handover ceremony of the 141 Regt RAC (The Buffs) standard to London Buffs who have now taken responsibility for its safekeeping. It will be carried by a branch member on future parades.

September also saw a visit to Normandy Battlefields another successful and enjoyable trip had by all.

On 1st October 2011 our branch President Major John Barrell arranged the luncheon relating to the 50th Anniversary of the Queen's Own Buffs, this turned out to be a very successful event also another opportunity to meet up with old friends from other branches of the association.

I would like to say at this point on behalf of the London Buffs A BIG THANK YOU to Major John Barrell for his ever supporting roll as President to



**Joe
receiving
his
Certificate
from
Colonel
Champion.**

Canterbury Branch invited the London Buffs to their Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 11th December 2011, this was a lovely start to the Christmas season and was well worth attending. This also brings us to the end of 2011, however we have another good year ahead in 2012 including the forthcoming trip in May to Amiens to visit the grave of Lt Latham for a start and I'm sure you are all looking forward, as we are, to the usual association events where the London Buffs will continue to give their full support.

On that note on behalf of the London Buffs Happy New Year to you all and lets hope 2012 is good to us all too.

BC

THE WEALD OF KENT BRANCH

SECRETARY: Capt Micky Gwilliam, 6 Fownes Street, Battersea, London SW11 2TJ

Tel: 020 3175 1090 / 07786 782041 email: micky.gwilliam@gmail.com

MEETING PLACE: Royal British Legion Club, 26 Priory Road, Tonbridge, Kent

MEETING: At 7 pm on the second Tuesday of every other month starting in January

We need to start our notes on a sad note. For those who have not heard the very sad news, our friend, colleague and Treasurer Major Patrick Gwilliam died just before Christmas. He will be sadly missed by his many friends and our hearts go out to Micky and his sisters in their sad loss.

2011 was a busy year for the Branch. We welcomed John Fowler to the committee as Welfare Officer and successor to Fred Scales as Raffle man, a hard act to follow as Fred had done a great job raising a lot of money ever since the birth of the branch.

We were treated to a fascinating talk by Chris Jupp in May on the defense of Kohima and the heroic role played by the 4th Bn RWK. Later that month 25 or so members enjoyed an interesting day out at Dover Castle, and in July a goodly number carried out a daring river assault on the Thames Barrier and Greenwich.



**Major John
Barrell
receiving the
141 Regt RAC
(The Buffs)
Standard from
Mr. George
Snashall**

the London Buffs we are very lucky and honoured to have John on our team.

On 11th November 2011 Canterbury Branch held a special page turning ceremony in Canterbury Cathedral, this was well supported from other branches and a very moving service. This also gave the opportunity to visit the Friends of the Buffs display in Westgate Tower where for the first time in fifty years the Buffs Flag was proudly flying above the tower.

In June 25 members attended a service in Tonbridge school chapel before marching with the 2nd Battalion on its Freedom Parade through the town. The good people of Tonbridge turned out in force, and a good time was had by all after the parade in the castle grounds, being entertained by two bands with free beer flowing.



In December, we held our Christmas Lunch, once again at the RBL Club in Tonbridge. We asked the outside caterers who had done us so proud at the Dedication of our Branch Standard and, after the problems of the previous Christmas, we and our guests were well fed and watered.

In June 2012, we will be undertaking our first major excursion, when we set forth by charabanc to the National Memorial Arboretum, staying overnight. The Chairman and Secretary are somewhat nervous on letting our horde loose on sensitive Midlanders but with at least one ex-RP on board no doubt all will be well. We are also toying with the idea of a more local outing – the South East is so full of interesting places we are spoilt for choice.

“Wetherspoons to the left of them,
Wetherspoons to the right of them.....”

With all the upcoming re-organisation, our membership numbers hold firm, and we look forward to the future with confidence.

Well done the 50th—well done my Majors!
Steady The Buffs

HW

HYTHE & FOLKESTONE BRANCH

SECRETARY: Mr. S C Macintyre, Saffrons, Sunnyside Road, Sandgate, Kent CT20 3DR.
Tel: 01303 240147

MEETING PLACE: Please contact the Secretary for details.

MEETING: Second Thursday in the month at 7.30 pm.

SANDWICH BRANCH

SECRETARY: Mr. D. G. Hogben.
75 Burch Avenue, Sandwich, Kent CT13 0AN.
Tel: 01304 612920.

MEETING PLACE: The White Mill, Ash Road :
Sandwich : Kent : CT13 9JB.

MEETINGS: 2nd Wednesday of every month
(except August) at 7.30pm

MAIDSTONE BRANCH

SECRETARY: Mrs. D Hall-Richardson.
31 Bychurch Place, Waterloo Street, Maidstone,
Kent ME15 7UQ.

MEETING PLACE: Stone Street Club, 2 Lower
Stone Street, Maidstone ME15 6JN,

MEETING: Third Tuesday in the month at 19.30
hrs.

BROMLEY BRANCH

CHAIRMAN: Mr. A. Wright. 21 The Underwood,
Eltham, London SE9 3EP.

MEETING PLACE: Sundridge Park W. M. C.,
Burnt Ash Lane, Bromley.

MEETING: Last Monday in the month at 12.30
hrs.

THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT

1st Battalion PWRR

Barker Bks Paderborn

The Battalion less the Rear Operations Group (rear party) is deployed on Operation Herrick 15 Afghanistan. Their main effort is to provide the Police Mentoring and Advisory Group (PMAG) and to Battle Group three rifle companies and the Reconnaissance Platoon to other Battalions. Fire Support Company are based in Laskar Gah running the PMAG with other elements of 20 Armoured Brigade, A and C Companies are with the 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland in Nad-e-Ali, B Coy with 5 Rifles in Nar-e-Saraj and Recce Platoon with the QRH Battle Group at Patrol Base Attal. Sadly on 20 Nov Pte Tom Lake of B Coy was killed by an IED and Lt Robert Coates, Cpl Oliver Kennedy, L/Cpl Timothy Jones and Pte Nicholas Franklin were wounded in the blast.

D+A service of Remembrance for Tom Lake was held on 9 Dec in the form of a full Military Funeral followed by a Cremation attended by immediate members of the family.

Prior to deployment the Battalion won a Gold Medal in the Cambrian Patrol Competition and various silver trophies in Football, Rugby, Athletics and Sailing Competitions.

On return to Paderborn the Battalion will give up their Warriors and re role as a Light Infantry Battalion.

The Battalion has risen to the challenges of deploying to Afghanistan and has given a good account of itself. The rapidly changing political landscape demands much of the commanders, and the ever-present threat focuses the mind of all.

2nd Battalion PWRR

Artillery Bks, Woolwich.

The Second Battalion is now switching focus from Public Duties to UK Ops and support to the 2012 Olympic Games. Last year saw us furnish many Queen's and Windsor Castle Guards, and also allowed us to proudly line-the-route for the Royal Wedding of H.R.H Prince William and Miss Middleton. The battalion has also been lucky

enough to have been visited by our Colonel in Chief, H.R.H The Queen of Denmark.

Next, the Battalion will form the core of a 1000+ Contingency Force for the 2012 Olympic Games, helping to ensure the UK's Main Effort of a successful Games is met. We will then start the long build-up training for our next deployment to Afghanistan, using a six week deployment to Kenya in early 2013 as the foundation for our training.

In between these peaks of activity, the men have excelled at sport, winning the majority of London District's sporting competitions; they have also taken part in adventure training expeditions such as Sky Diving in California or Skiing in France.

Life for the men has been incredibly busy but equally rewarding. The Battalion has taken to Public Duties with great professionalism and has acquitted itself well in an unforgiving environment. Now the time to re-focus is upon us and the Battalion will undoubtedly move forward with gusto and fierce pride.

3rd Battalion PWRR

Leros TA Centre, Canterbury

The Battalion has had a full and busy year which has included two Lion Star tours to Cyprus, a Training Team to Uganda, and the deployment of over 50 soldiers with 20 Bde to Afghanistan with 1 PWRR, 2 Mercian, QDG and various other Units currently in theatre.

The Bn was selected to provide a Training Team to train the Ugandan Army prior to its operational deployment, a unique honour for the 3rd Bn. The first Cyprus trip occurred in May and was aimed at providing the troops deploying on Herrick 15 with some field firing and other operational training prior to going to Sennybridge to complete their training. This was a very hectic period for those troops but gave them some idea of the tempo they would be operating at once they joined the Units they were deploying with. The second trip to Cyprus was in Sep and was less hectic as it was for the rest of the Bn to get annual camp training completed. The first week was range work with other cadres being run which included a SAA Course run by the SASC with the second week taken up with

Adventure training. Most of the training took place in the Troodos Mountains as well as the excellent water facilities associated with that part of the world.

The Bn's social life has continued apace with Sobraon day being celebrated in Woolwich with the kind permission of the CO 2 PWRR which hopefully will be the venue for next year as well. This year, the Drum Major, Sgt Wright was selected for this unique and prestigious honour. The Kohima Cpl and Albuhera were also celebrated in keeping with tradition as well as the usual mess functions which included the WO's & Sgt's Mess summer Ball taking place on the MV Pocahontas as it sailed up the river Thames. This had a Regimental association as the Captain is the father of the RSM

of the 2nd Bn PWRR. Guess which Bn the RSM of the 3rd Bn comes from!

The Bn is now looking forward to providing the Training Team to Uganda again in Feb 2012. There is another trip to Cyprus in the New Year to provide the same training that was completed in May 11 but his time for the soldiers deploying on Herrick 17 so the hectic pace looks to continue in the near future. The other thing that is on the horizon is the re-structuring of the TA with the possible increase in strength of the Bn.

Either way the 3rd Bn will continue to lead the way for the rest of the TA to follow.

o o o

Soldier Magazine 1972



The Buffs' home town of Canterbury played host to the veterans of the famous regiment now absorbed in the present-day Queen's Regiment which provided the bands for the ceremony.

Story by Mike Starke
Pictures by Martin Adam



The Buffs - 400 years old

The Buffs, who trace their regimental origins back to the Train Bands of 1572, celebrated their four centuries of service with a parade, service and lunch in their home town of Canterbury.

The 1800 members of the regimental association and the Colours they carried into the ancient cathedral were all that remained, apart from memories, of a proud regiment now embodied in The Queen's Regiment.

But the name of The Buffs lives on in everyday speech as the Mayor of Canterbury, Councillor Colonel J Tilleard - in The Buffs himself for 30 years - reminded 1600 lunch guests: "It is sad the name of The Buffs is no longer in daily use in the Army," he said, "but what will go down in history is the household phrase 'Steady th Buffs';" The phrase was said to have been coined on the parade ground by the adjutant of the 2nd Battalion in 1857.

For nearly 100 years Canterbury has been The Buffs' depot and the freedom of the city was conferred in 1948. Unofficial links between the city and Colours are claimed as far back as 1703. The connection is kept up daily when a page of The Buffs' "Book of Life," listing the regiment's dead of two world wars, is turned in the cathedral's Warriors' Chapel. Once a lone uniformed soldier marched through Canterbury to the cathedral for the simple ceremony. Nowadays retired Buffs have taken over the daily tradition.

It was not a lone marcher but hundreds the city welcomed back as ex-Buffs flocked to Canterbury for the 400th celebrations - a 90 year old veteran made a special trip from New Zealand for his day of nostalgia.

The commemoration was just two days before the anniversary of a review by Queen Elizabeth I on 1 May 1572 of 3000 men of the London Train Bands from which The Buffs claim descent. Organisers of the Canterbury

parade were disappointed that their event was lashed by gale-force winds and drizzle - but historians record that rain also dogged the review in Greenwich Park 400 years earlier.

A force of 300 volunteers was raised from the assembled Train Bands to help the Dutch fight for home rule against the Spanish. The struggle wore on for 76 years and 1665 found the descendants and reinforcements of the original 300 refusing to renounce allegiance to Britain in favour of Holland - a loyalty which earned them expulsion from the country they had fought to free. This left Charles II with a disgruntled band of homeless warriors whom he promptly formed into the Holland Regiment. The uniform was a red tunic with buff-coloured lining, breeches, waistcoat and stocking.

The regiment finally took its name "The Buffs" in the early 1700s from the colour of these accessories.

'Now Is The Hour'

An account of the voyage of 1st Bn QORWK to Singapore
by Major Peter Leigh MC-then 2nd Lt.

On 3rd February, 1951 'the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment set sail from Liverpool on the troopship 'Devonshire' bound for Malaya.



A final word from General Oliver:
Maj. Gen Oliver, Lt. Nick Nichols, Lt. John Lygo, Lt. John Norton. Lt. Bernard Walters, Lt. Mike Gregson, Lt. Peter Leigh, Major 'Willie' Spur and Lt. Ken Dodson.

Prior to leaving, Major General Oliver (Colonel of the Regiment) came on board to wish the battalion well.

As all the people seeing us off waved, the band on the quayside played 'Now is the Hour for us to say goodbye' and there were not many dry eyes on



Embarking

board. Almost 15% of the Battalion were National Service soldiers, virtually none of whom would have been outside the U.K. before. At this time some food was still rationed and very few people owned a car.



Regt Band stowing their kit:
L to R: Bill Hoare, Colin McGowan, George Healey, Peter Yates, Ron Bowles, Cyril Hulkes, Windsor Clark, Duke Davis and Tom Marshall

The Devonshire was operated by Bibby Lines and run by the Royal Air Force, with a Group Captain-in charge. It could carry one major unit with a number of families, plus a number of individuals/ families from other units. But perhaps its greatest claim to fame as far as the soldiers were concerned, was that the troop decks did not have bunk beds, but the men were expected to sleep in hammocks. These were hooked up with quite a curve and it was an acquired skill to be able to sleep in them. So the result was that the vast majority just slept on the deck. Otherwise there were a number of large wooden tables, secured to the deck, with benches to sit on.

And so the Battalion sailed away to fight for King and Country in Malaya. For the first couple of days we settled down to the routine, and then, as the Devonshire approached the Bay of Biscay the weather began to get rough. Then it got very rough, and though we did not know it at the time,



Conditions on the troop decks.

disaster struck in that some heavy equipment broke loose in the engine room and as it crashed from side to side it severed the fuel lines and so the main engines stopped. With no power the Devonshire now lay side on to the seas and began to roll very heavily. In fact, it was rolling more than 40 degrees each way and the lower portholes on each side were submerged as the ship rolled and metal backings had to be fitted inside the ship.

The troop decks were ghastly, with sea water and vomit sloshing from side to side. The vast majority of the battalion and the other passengers were sea sick, and in any case no food could be cooked, so for those still upright it was Bovril and biscuits only. What we did not know was that the Devonshire had sent out distress signals and other ships were on the way to help. This was broadcast by the BBC on the news at 10 p.m. that night, so that all the families heard that after only two days their loved ones were in peril on the sea.

Fortunately, after some hours, repairs were made in the engine room, the engines started again and the Devonshire was able to face into the storm and the danger was over. After the storm I asked one of the men in my platoon whether he had realised how serious the storm was. He said "No sir, not until I saw all those little Indians climb into a lifeboat". I had not heard about this, but apparently some of the Indian crew had got into one of the lifeboats and had to be driven out by the Bosun.

Not long after this we reached the much smoother waters of the Med, but it was not long before this tranquillity was upset with the news that someone on board had developed symptoms which could possibly be Smallpox. So although we had all had the smallpox jabs a few months previously, everybody on board had to be inoculated again. In addition this meant that we would not be allowed to go ashore at Suez and also at Aden. But in the end the illness proved to be no more than chickenpox.

Some training was carried out during the voyage, very largely in the form of lectures and talks, but there was P.E. on the open decks, and the highlight was shooting practice, which was carried out from the stern of the ship. The targets were suitable floating objects, the best of these being balloons. As the ship was going up and down and the targets were going up and down it was a good test. But generally the balloons did not last long.

So we got to Suez where all the 'Bum Boats' besieged the ship and the 'Gully Gully' men were allowed onto the ship to entertain with their amazing conjuring, producing cheeping chicks from every orifice, none of which made a peep before they appeared. Then on down the Suez Canal, the highlight of which was passing HMS Belfast on her way home. Great shouting and jeering as we passed, with calls of "Get your knees brown" from the Belfast, with suitable responses from the Devonshire. What was surprising was how much such large ships rolled when everybody on board stood on one side. We seemed to be quite lucky that the masts did not touch.

On to the Red sea, calling at Aden, but not getting off and into the Indian Ocean. However we still had one more experience to go, when it was thought a man had gone overboard. Someone had heard a splash, thought it must be a body, threw overboard two lifebelts and let forth the cry "Man Overboard". Everybody went to their boat stations, whilst a count of all crew and passengers took place, and the Devonshire slowly turned and started circulate the area. The count went on for sometime and one man was found to be missing. The ship was searched until the missing man was found, fast asleep in a lavatory.

Next on to Colombo where we were allowed at last to go ashore for a brief visit, and then on towards Singapore, which we reached exactly 28 days after leaving Liverpool.

But the 'jinx' on the voyage continued to the end. In Singapore the dock-side crane drivers were on strike, so all the baggage had to be unloaded by hand by Chinese coolies, all quite small, and mostly women, coming down the gangplank carrying boxes which we would have expected two people to lift. It was certainly an eye opener for the families on board.

However I was very much involved because my role on the trip was as Baggage Officer, which so

far had not been very challenging. But now my moment had come. As the rest of the Battalion disembarked and proceeded to Nee Soon Barracks I was left with a small group of soldiers to act as guards, to see all the baggage, including a large number of boxes of ammunition, up-loaded from the ship onto lorries and off to Nee Soon. I had been given an inventory of two or three pages listing all the ammunition boxes, so that I could check that everything was correct. The theory was quite straight forward, but the practice was totally different. As the endless stream of little Chinese ladies came down the gangway and dumped the boxes on the quay I just did not have time to check each box, what type of ammo it was and where the box was on the list before another two boxes had arrived. So in the end the Chinese 'worker ants' won the day and I just stood back and watched as everything was unloaded.

The tide was falling and the crew of the Devonshire were most concerned, because if they could not leave the dock-side very shortly they would be stuck, and have to pay another day's docking fees. So as the last boxes were taken off the crew were starting to cast off, and the group of sentries on board came running down the gangplank.

My most vivid moment of the whole trip now occurred. As the gap between the ship and the quay widened there was a cry from on board and a sailor held up a rifle which one of the sentries

had managed to leave behind in the excitement of the moment. The sailor then held the rifle by the end of the barrel, whirled it round his head and let it go. In those seconds as the rifle rotated in the air, through my mind flashed to sight of the Court Martial assembling to hear the charge that I was responsible for losing a weapon before we had even got to Malaya.

But the sailor was strong and the rifle twirled its way over the gap and with a crash landed, very fortunately on a pile of ropes. (*Its accuracy thereafter I did not check on*).

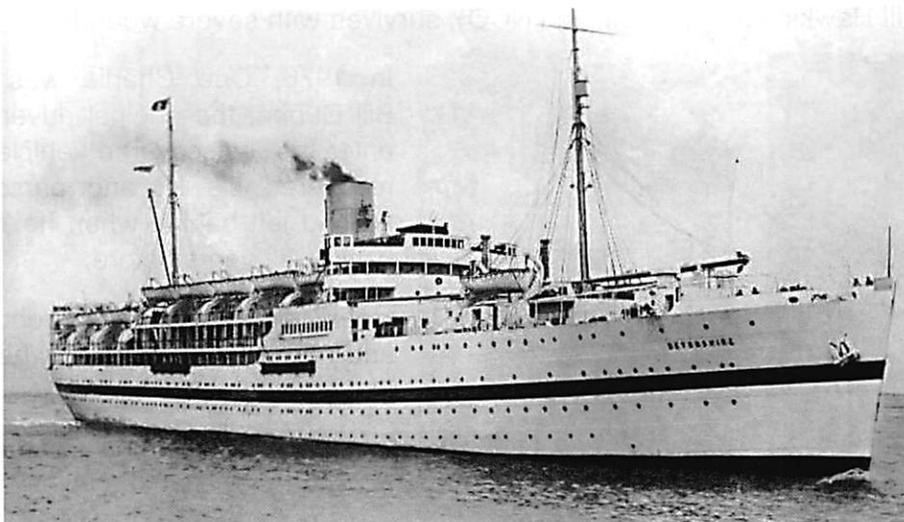
So the baggage party finally made its way to Nee Soon and for the next couple of days I lived in fear that one of the Company Commanders might come up to me and say "*Peter, we seem to be missing a box of 7.6mm*". Fortunately, it did not happen.

Yes, it was an interesting trip on the Devonshire.

Not long after this, when the Devonshire was bringing troops home from Korea there was nearly a mutiny over the conditions on board. She was then taken out of service and bunk beds were fitted.

Peter Leigh

(Peter, many thanks for this article and thanks also to Ron Harper for the photos. The Editor)



MV Devonshire
Built by Fairfield Govan,
11,275 tons Built 1939
Port of Registry: London
Passengers 250 and 1,150 Troops.

ASSOCIATION TRIP TO NORMANDY BEACHES 2011

The 23rd September saw 45 of the Association coach bound for Caen on a four day visit to the Normandy Beaches.

The four days provided some really fabulous late summer weather and a fascinating tour of the invasion 'hot spots' including, Pegasus Bridge, Gold, Sword and Juno Beaches, the Invasion Museum in Arromanches, Omaha Beach, Pointe du Hoc, St Mere Eglise and the outstanding American Airborne museum, the American Cemetery at Colleville sur Mer and the Bayeaux British Military Cemetery.

On the first day a smooth and enjoyable channel crossing was followed by the drive down to Caen crossing the Normandy Bridge which must rank as one of the outstanding engineering feats of the modern age. After checking into the hotel everyone dispersed to various restaurants to sample the delights of Normandy cuisine.

The next day our first stop was at Pegasus Bridge which was the curtain raiser for our tour as indeed the action there in 1944 was for the invasion. As Philip, our tour guide, was explaining the battle for the bridge it was raised to allow a large cargo ship through-a very impressive sight.

A trip along Gold, Sword and Juno beaches during which the story of One Charlie was related by Philip Pearce. 26 Assault Squadron was supporting the 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade which had been given the task of capturing Courseulles-sur-Mer and Graye-sur-Mer. To the west of the landing the advance was held up by a water-filled crater in a culvert approximately 20 meters wide and about 3 meters deep. Owing to the surface flooding, the leading AVRE (callsign 'One Charlie'), which was carrying a fascine, failed to see the crater and slipped into it. All six members of the crew escaped but immediately afterwards came under heavy mortar fire. Four were killed but two, Sapper Bill Dunn (the driver) and Lance Corporal Bill Hawkins (the demolitions NCO), survived with severe wounds.



Our excellent tour guide, Lt. Col. Philip Pearce with One Charlie.



Pegasus Bridge raised to allow a large cargo ship through the canal.



The memorial to Major John Howard.

In 1976, One Charlie was recovered, and Bill Dunne, the original driver, was the first to enter the rediscovered vehicle and in so doing recovered his kit and personal effects that he had left behind when he 'bailed out' of the vehicle 32 years before.

One Charlie was cleaned, rebuilt and re painted and now stands close to where it slipped into that crater.

Lunch in Arromanches was enjoyed as was the subsequent visit to the Invasion Museum.

That afternoon free time in Bayeux for shopping or a visit to see the famous tapestry. Later at the British Cemetery in Bayeux, crosses of remembrance were laid by Association members on graves of those members of 141 Regt RAC (The Buffs) who died during the Normandy campaign.

This was followed by a short parade and service, the laying of three wreaths on behalf of The Queen's Own Buffs Regt. Association, The PWRR and Friends of The Buffs. During this short ceremony the names of the Buffs who had fallen in the campaign, and who were commemorated here, were read out and the regimental collect was read by Revd. Keith Fazzani and a minute's silence held.

Day 3 saw an early start with a visit to St Mere Eglise. From the church steeple hangs a dummy with the parachute entangled in the superstructure. This dummy represents P.F.C. John Steele of the US 82nd Airborne Division, who hung there throughout the night of 5th/6th June 1944 but survived.

After a trip out to Pointe du Hoc and an excellent lunch the group travelled to the American Cemetery at Collville sur Mer. Here a short parade and service was held at the memorial, a wreath was laid and Taps sounded.

Next morning, after checking out, a visit to the lovely fishing port of Honfleur for lunch and then it was back to Calais and home.

The trip was deemed to have been extremely successful and that was due to our exceptional tour guide Lt. Col. Philip Pearce, a good hotel, excellent weather, a very comfortable coach and an excellent driver, Geoff.



Above: Wreaths being laid at the Bayeaux Cemetery.

Below: The graves of Trooper A Frood and L/Cpl. D F Moore of 141st Regt. RAC (The Buffs)



Colonel Champion laying a wreath on behalf of the Association at the American Cemetery.



The historic and very beautiful port of Honfleur.

TURNING THE PAGE

Friday 11th November 2011



Above left: The parade.

Above right: Alfie Baker RN ready to ring the bell at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of the 11th year. A unique event.



Left: Bob Spore and Major Peter White who turned the page in The Buffs and QOR of Canada Books of Life with the Dean, the Right Revd. Dr Robert Willis.

Below L/R Lt. Col. Cecil West OBE, Colonel Mike Ball, The Editor, Colonel Crispin Champion who laid wreaths for Friends of The Buffs, PWRR, Royal Canadian Rifles and the QOB Regt. Association, respectively, with The Dean Dr Robert Willis, Henry Delo and Bob Spore.





THE ULU CALEDONIAN ESTATE AMBUSH

22nd October 1951 & 60 Years on 22nd October 2011



On Saturday 22nd October 2011, exactly 60 years after the Ulu Caledonian Ambush, a large gathering paraded for a short service of remembrance at the War Memorial in Maidstone's Brenchley Gardens where wreaths were laid to honour the many who died. Mike Gregson, the then commander of 11 Platoon D Company, journeyed from Australia and was joined by Albert Wheeler one of the few surviving heroes who fought off the attackers with immense bravery. Some 130 RWK veterans, wearing their Malayan

medals, then moved to The Town Hall where they were made extremely welcome by The Mayor, Cllr Brian Mortimer, over lunch and a noggin.



Two of the survivors, Captain Mike Gregson with Albert Wheeler

1st Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment deployed to Malaya in March 1951 to protect the country against the Chinese pro-Communist

uniformed, self-styled Malayan Races Liberation Army (MRLA) who were conducting an insurrection and guerrilla war against the administration and were supported by the Min Yuen, who wore civilian clothes, and extorted food and money besides committing murders and other atrocities to intimidate the mainly Malay civil population.



Ron Harper and Bill Franklin studying a map of the ambush location.

The Queen's Own arrived under strength but received reinforcements who were mainly directed to D Company to bring it up to effective strength. This included 11 (Eleven) Platoon of some 30 men who were then placed under the command of 2Lt Mike Gregson.



At about 0900 on 22nd October 1951 transport under the command of Captain Eric Deed picked up 11 Platoon after they had patrolled the Ulu Caledonian rubber estate and its surrounding jungle. When the convoy of three vehicles had gone about two miles along a narrow, winding track towards

the trunk road, a bomb was detonated under the 3-ton lorry carrying the bulk of the platoon and at the same time it came under intense fire from some 40 terrorists, well concealed in ditches and trenches on the steep hillside and armed with an unidentified heavy weapon plus machine guns, rifles and grenades. Captain Deed and Corporal Sulley, the acting Platoon Sergeant, were



killed outright along with three other soldiers. Soon after that 2Lt Mike Gregson was seriously injured, which left Lance Corporal Martin as the only platoon NCO alive and uninjured. Those travelling in the next (smaller) truck also came



Royal West Kent veterans stand in silent tribute at the Cenotaph in Brenchley Gardens.



under intense fire and took cover while the lightly armoured Scout Car opened retaliatory fire with its twin Bren machine guns, but they were almost immediately put out of action by a hit on the gun mounting.

The men of 11 Platoon were not found wanting and fought back valiantly. LCpl Martin was badly wounded and the long serving Private Johnny Pannell took command. Moving from place to place he rallied his few remaining men most of whom were wounded and who resisted several attempts to rush the position.

After about an hour of fierce fighting the terrorists, who turned out to be 8 Platoon of the MRLA, withdrew having failed to capture any weapons and leaving a total of 6 of their men dead.

The toll on 11 Platoon was very heavy. Besides Captain Deed and Corporal Sulley another 13 gallant soldiers were killed including three Iban Trackers, who were very much part of 11 platoon. 12 soldiers were wounded, several gravely, with only four escaping any injury. Private Pannell who had been wounded four times still managed to walk back towards the Estate Office to try and summon help.

Private Pannell was decorated with the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM), Lance Corporal Martin with the Military Medal (MM) while Drummer Butcher and the Lance Corporal Parish, the signaller, were both Mentioned in Despatches (MID). Private Albert Wheeler, received a Commander-in-Chief's Certificate.



Ceras Road Cemetery, Kuala Lumpur where the twenty five members of 1st Bn Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment who lost their lives during the Malayan tour are buried.



**Those who laid wreaths included:
Top left: Captain Mike Gregson, Albert Wheeler and Colonel Peter Stock.
Top right: General Sir Geoffrey Howlett KBE MC.**

**Above left: Ken Morris
Above centre: Mrs Di Collis, long term partner of Bob Terry of 11 Pln, wearing his Malayan campaign medal with pride.**

Above right: Majors Peter Leigh MC and John Norton.



Colonel Crispin Champion welcoming the guests prior to the ceremony

Major John Norton, one of the first to arrive at the site after the ambush, describing the scene



The Mayor of Maidstone talking with Mike Gregson and Albert Wheeler

John Bellingham, John Webb, 2/Lt. Graham Jackson and Ron Harper

PHOTO GALLERY



**Maidstone Reunion, 2011 - The Parade will remove head-dress:
Remove Head-dress**

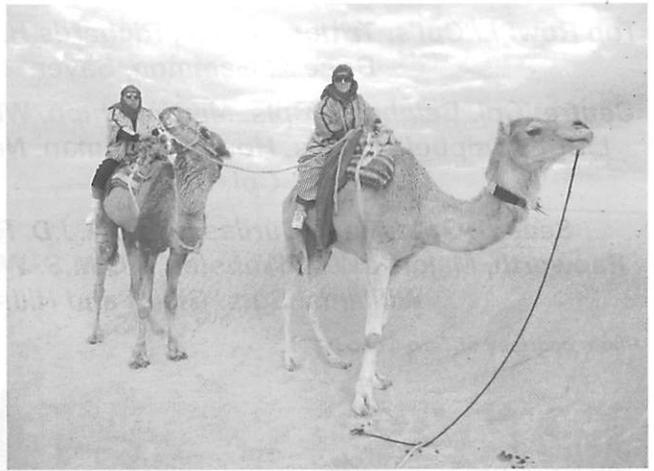
L to R Peter Morley-Jacobs, Jim Gibbs, Peter Leigh, Philip Pearn and John Norton



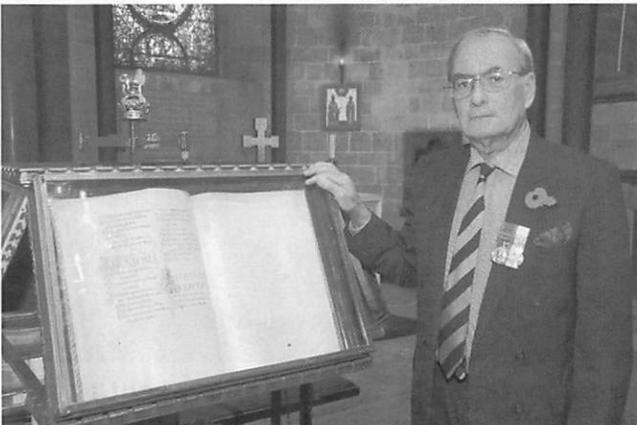
Canterbury Branch has always enjoyed a reputation for being very active!!!!!!

Wally Tong, the late Kenny Vine and Georgie Woods regaining their strength

(Kenny would have loved to see this photo in print)



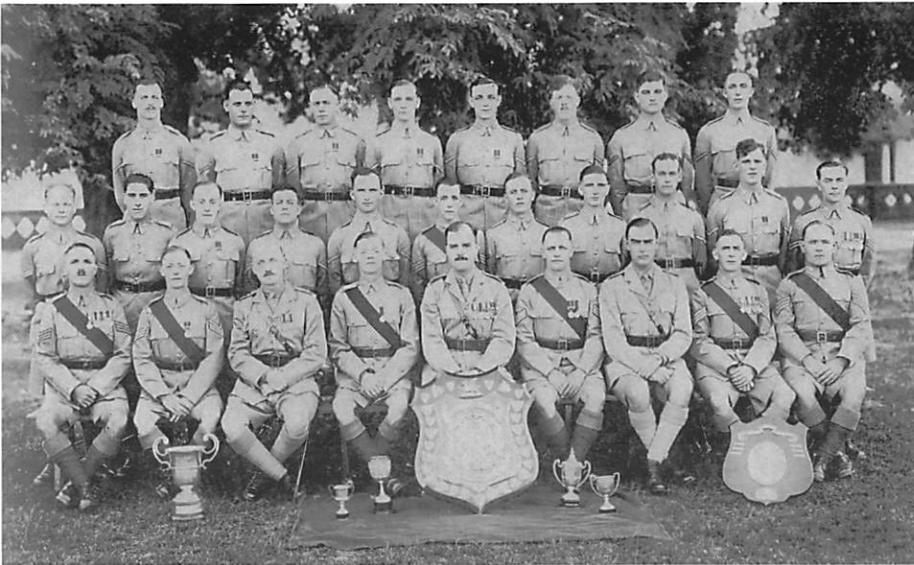
**Elements of London Buffs in Lawrence of Arabia mode:
Croydon was never like this!**



Major Tony Martin (RHQ) at a Turning of the Page ceremony. Tony has recently retired and we wish him well in his retirement.



**Wuppertal Buffs Lunch - 26th October 2011
Fred Scales & Norman Shonk with guests,
Cpl. Brian McAllan & Cpl. Donald McMaster. of
5th Bn The Royal Scots (Argyle & Sutherland
Highlanders)**



**"C" Coy. 1st Bn. THE BUFFS.
October 1936**

Top Row: L/Cpl's. Tritton, Kettell, Richards H. Cox, Hotchkiss, Brice A, Gammon, Sayer

Centre: Cpl. Belcher, L/Cpls. Martin, Shipp, Williams, Eustace, L/Sgt Campbell, L/Cpls. Hoare, Chapman. Newall, Brice, S. Cpl. Green

Seated: Sgts. Beal, Curliss, Capt. A.J.D. Rose, C.S.M. Papworth, Major R.W.M. Webster, C.Q.M.S. Watson, Lt. J.R.P. Williams, Sgts. Gillett and Hills.

Photo courtesy of Terri Cox:

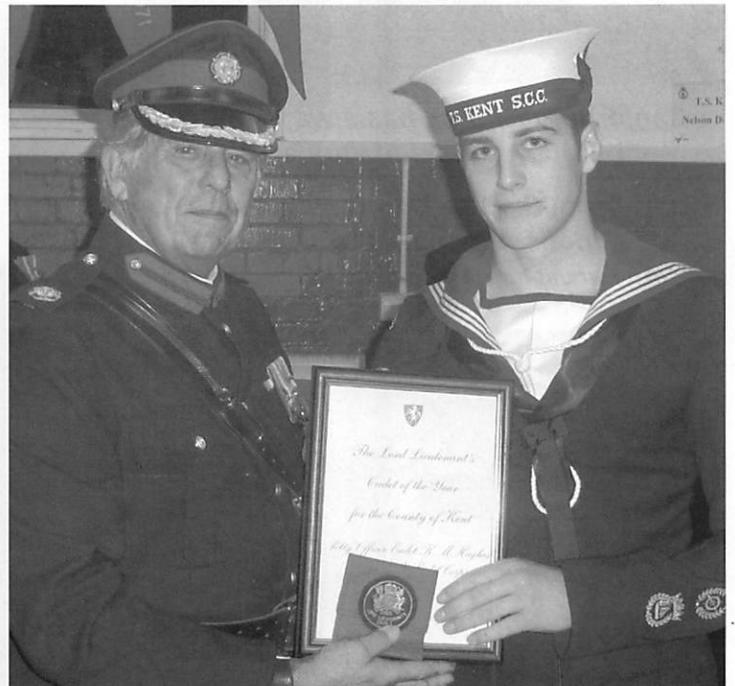


Mrs Sylvia Tutt, granddaughter of Cpl. George Tritton DCM (See separate article) wearing George's medals at a recent Turning of the Page ceremony.



Here is one for any Cartophilists (fag packet collectors).

Major Drapkin & Co was a branch of United Kingdom Tobacco Co.



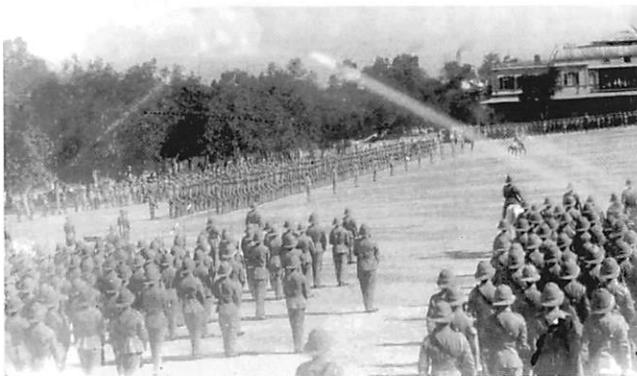
Colonel Barry Duffield, pictured at a recent awards ceremony, has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Kent. Barry, on behalf of all members of the Regimental Association, well done and congratulations.



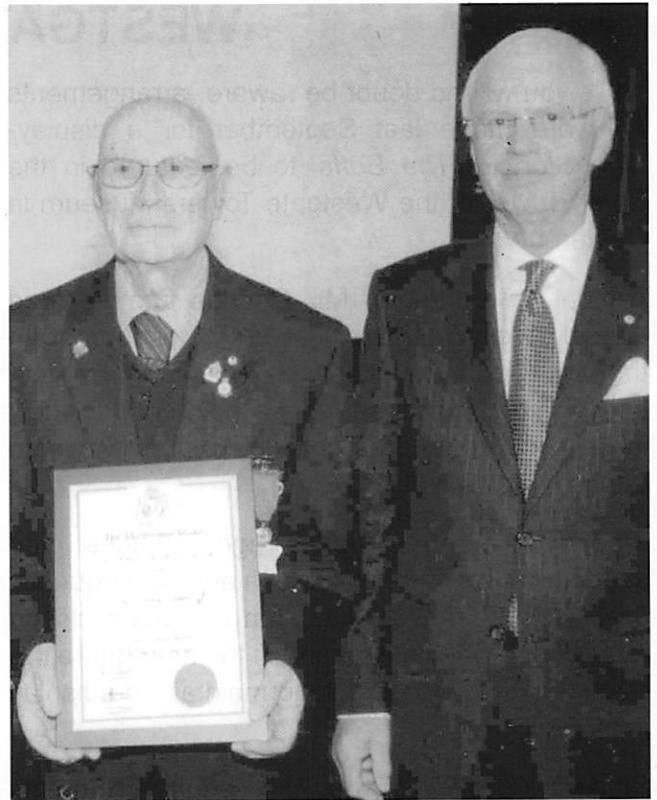
Arthur Healey, the youngest of the four Healey brothers who served together in Malaya in The Queen's Own, pictured here with the family medals

Top Row: Drum Major William Healey, (Father) whose service, over 30 years in The Queen's Own, spanned both World Wars. Middle Row: The medals of Tim and Ron who served in the Marines during the 2nd World War and later joined Queen's Own, and George who was awarded an MID and Military Medal in Malaya. Bottom Row: Arthur's medals including the MBE awarded to Arthur in 1997.

An inspiring and unique record of service!



**1 Buffs, Gibraltar 1926
Trooping the Colour on the King's Birthday**



Revd. Vernon Collins, receiving a well deserved Meritorious Service Medal from His Excellency The Hon Alex Chernov AO QC, Governor of Victoria. The award was for exceptional services rendered over many years to the Australian Returned & Services League. Vern, a member of our Association, has lived in Australia for many years but still visits the UK and includes in his itinerary visits to several of our branches. Congratulations Vern.



Harry Pearce, a Buff veteran of WW2, Turning the Page escorted by Bryan Hazard. Harry is now well into his nineties, served with 4th Bn The Buffs and was captured at Leros.

WESTGATE TOWERS

As you will no doubt be aware, arrangements were made last September for a display 'The Story of The Buffs' to be featured in the South Tower of the Westgate Towers Museum in Canterbury.

A local entrepreneur, Mr. Charles Lambie, had leased the Westgate Towers Museum from the City Council earlier last year and was very supportive of our need for a Regimental Display in the Canterbury area until the Beaney Museum opens later this year.

Tragically, a few weeks ago, Charles died suddenly at his home in London and subsequently the Westgate Towers Museum has been closed temporarily. Should it reopen in the near future it is hoped that we will be able to maintain the display in situ.

Since the display opened the various comments in the Museum's visitors book shows just how popular our display has been, and I am sure that whoever will be responsible for the reopening will look kindly on our continued presence.

The display was funded by Friends of The Buffs with generous assistance from The Queen's Own Buffs Regimental Association, team work in every sense of the word.

Just before Christmas the display was enhanced with the purchase of 3 deactivated weapons, a Brown Bess musket, a No. 4 Rifle and a Mk 1 LMG and just prior to the closure the provision of a flat screen computer was being costed on which short film clips of The Buffs from as far back as 1926 could be shown. That is now on hold of course.

If you are not a member of Friends of The Buffs and would like to join then please complete the enclosed application form. There is no membership fee as such but 'one of' or regular donations are always welcome.

For those of you who have not had the opportunity to visit the display the following photos of the display may be of interest.

The South Tower is octagonal in shape offering 7 panelled sides for display purposes the eight side is the entrance. Each of the seven display panels depict a different chapter in the history of the regiment.



**Above: 5 of the 7 display panels.
Below: Frankie Hills and Bryan Dudman at
the display panel 'Wars & Campaigns
1828-1902'**



On Wednesday 2nd November permission was given by the City Council for the Regimental flag of The Buffs to fly over the Westgate Towers. A memorable moment made more so by a member of the public looking up, saw the flag, looked down and saw our regimental ties and uttered the immortal words 'Steady The Buffs', what a moment.



**Friends of The Buffs who were there to see
the Dragon Flag flying again.**

CANTERBURY REUNION AND SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE Sunday 7th August 2011



Fall In



The Band of PWRR and Corps of Drums of 3 PWRR providing colour on a grey day



The Parade and for once in the rain!





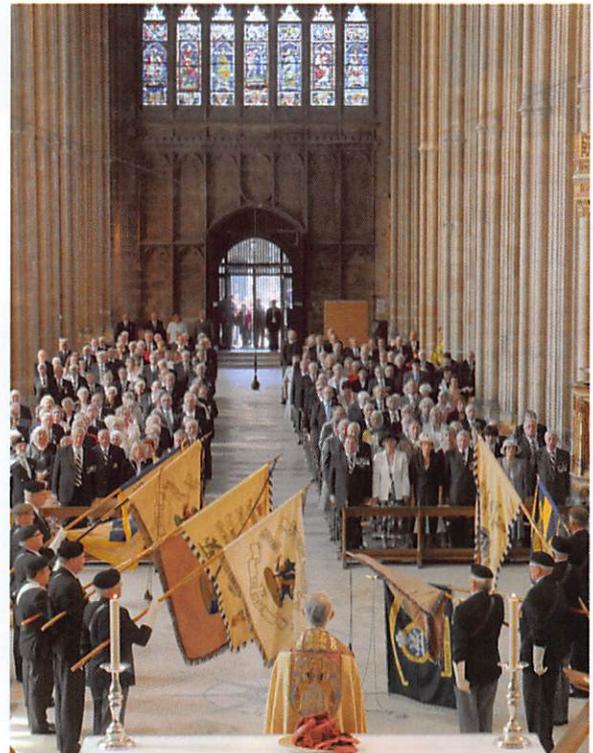
The Parade entering the precincts led by the Parade Commander and the Standard Bearers of Weald Branch (Barry Crocker), Denmark Branch (Bryan Dudman) and Canterbury Branch (Sammy Supple).



The Dean, the Right Reverend Dr. Robert Willis DL, welcoming Colonel Champion and the Lord Mayor of Canterbury



The standards processing out of the Cathedral



The Association Standards dip during the Act of Remembrance



The Dean, Lord Mayor and President taking the salute



The March Past



Presentation of Meritorious Service Certificate to four well deserving members of the Association. Above left: Alfie Baker ex RN (Canterbury Branch), Centre: Sammy Supple Canterbury Branch Standard Bearer), Above right; Graham Arnot and right: Jimmy Burr (Secretary and Chairman respectively of Colchester Branch.



And then the sun came out

Oh, all right then Colonel, if you insist.

I always seem to play much better with the correct diet!



Dehydration must be avoided at all costs.



Georgie Toms, the late Kenny Vine and Wally Tong-socialising with the 'Swingtime Sweethearts'.



WW 2 veteran Sidney Peck and 'supporters'

MAIDSTONE REUNION AND SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Sunday 11th September 2011



The Inspection



Major John Norton inspecting the band



*Above: The Mayoral party arrive:
Right: Colonel Champion laying a wreath on behalf of the Regt. Association.*



Mrs Liz Goodwin with Mrs Angela Watson (left) and Angela's mother Violet Elizabeth, the daughter of Major William Charles Kill MBE. Violet is also the grand daughter of C/ Sgt Samuel James Kill (QORWK) veteran of Sudan, India NWF and WW1.



Ramsgate Branch Standard dipped during the Act of Remembrance.



The parade marching through Maidstone



The Service of Remembrance



The Reunion



The Mayor of Maidstone and Colonel Champion seen here talking with Gordon Beer and his daughter Sue who had travelled all the way from Ballarat, Victoria, Australia to take part in the Reunion.



One of the 'Swingtime Sweethearts' during the 'Sing Along' with the 'bass baritone' section- Colonel Peter Cook and Brigadier Raymond Low.



Gordon Beer (left) with long toime friend Ron Skinner. Gordon joined the Queen's Own in 1955 and served in Germany, Suez and Cyprus. Thereafter with the Queen's Own Buffs in Canada, Kenya, Hong Kong, Borneo and Northern Ireland.



*'D' Coy 1 RWK CBS Camp, Nicosia
Back row: Peter Matthews, Major John Norton (who was the OC), Arthur Healey.
Front Row: Ken Washer with Dave Bannister John Dowe and Ham Whitty. Dave and John were in Ham's platoon along with the late Sgt. Healey MM.*



Colonel Crispin Champion seen here presenting a replica set of Leonard Bristow's World War 1 medals to his great nephew Nigel Bristow.

Leonard was killed with 1/RWK at Wulverghem in Dec 1914 .

Another of Nigel's great uncles served with 1 Buffs in France & Flanders 1914-18 so he has a connection with both regiments - two "Old Contemptibles" one from each!

(Editors note: Nigel is one of the founder members of the QORWK Living History group. The medals etc were mounted by Chris Jupp in appreciation for all that Nigel does for the group.)

LONDON BUFFS PARADE AND SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Sunday 4th September 2011



The Parade marching through the Tower to the Chapel Royal.



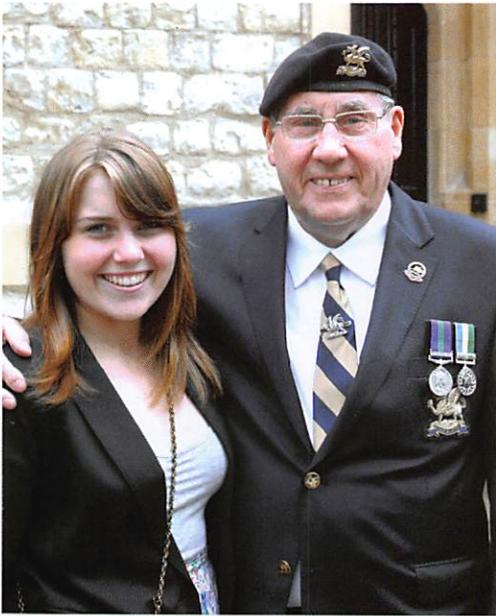
George Snashall and Geoff Kirk, both of 141 Regt RAC (The Buffs), on parade



George Snashall, of 141 Regt RAC (The Buffs) formally handing over the branch standard to Major John Barrell, President of London Buffs for safekeeping.



The 141 Standard at the 'carry' on parade with London Buffs for the first time.



Branch Chairman, Frankie Hills, with Shannon who came along to support her granddad.



The Parade formed up and awaiting inspection



The Parade Marshal, Sammy Supple, reporting to Colonel Crispin Champion that the parade is ready for inspection



Major John Barrell talking with Branch Member Ken Hyams



Fred Scales (Weald Branch) and Frank Harvey (Ramsgate Branch) talking with Major Barrell

Betty Correa with a bouquet of flowers presented to her by Colonel Champion with thanks for everything she does for the branch.



Buglers from the Fusilier Association (London) Corps of Drums talking with Colonel Champion.

Corporal George Austin Tritton, DCM

2nd Battalion The Buffs

On July 21, 1915, Sub Lieutenant Harold Harris RNR and an armed guard from the battleship HMS Victorian boarded a full-rigged American merchant ship, the Pass of Balmaha, after it strayed into a war zone off the Shetland Islands.



George and his wife Bessie

Harris's orders were to take the ship into Lerwick or Kirkwall. While on passage, flying the American flag he saw a German submarine, U-36, sink a 5,000-ton steamer, a trawler and a small coastal steamer.

On July 24th U-36 came alongside the Pass of Balmaha and instructed its captain to send his papers across in a boat. While this was going on, Harris burned his own secret papers, borrowed clothing from the crew for himself and his men, and hid with them in the ship's forepeak,

A German warrant officer took command of the Pass of Balmaha, which was escorted to Cuxhaven, 500 miles away, by U-36, Harris and his crew remained hidden throughout the voyage but gave themselves up when they arrived at the German port. They were interned in the infamous Sennelager prisoner of war camp in Westphalia,

The German Warrant Officer foolishly boasted to one of the Pass of Balmaha's Japanese stewards about U-36's operations and the strength and disposition of the German submarine fleet. This information was passed on to Sub Lieutenant Harris, who while in captivity noted or memorised his experiences on the Pass of Balmaha and the intelligence obtained from the steward.

Among the thousands of other PoWs at Sennelager was a George Austin Tritton from No 2 Mill Row, Birchington, Kent, a member of the 2nd Battalion The Buffs East Kent Regiment

George, aged 33, had been a well-known amateur boxer in Thanet and a member of the local police force at the time Britain declared war against Germany. He enlisted in The Buffs on November 10th, 1914, was immediately promoted to corporal, and in March 1915 went to France with his battalion to fight with the British Expeditionary Force.

On April 24th 1915, he was a member of 'B' Company when it became completely surrounded by the enemy at St Julien while defending the left flank of the 3rd Canadian Brigade during the fighting that preceded the Second Battle of Ypres. In the ensuing engagement most of the unit's men were killed. The survivors, many of them injured, were taken prisoner and packed into cattle trucks for a two-day journey, with little food or water, to Paderbourn in Westphalia.

George had sustained shrapnel injuries to his right arm and was taken to Landes Hospital, where the arm was amputated. On June 30th he was transferred to Sennelager, where he mingled with about 4,000 other prisoners. In order to buy stationery from the Germans to write letters home he sold cigarettes to, among others, Sub Lieutenant Harold Harris.

On August 20, 1915, on hearing that George was to be repatriated the following day, Harris asked him to deliver a letter to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty in London. The letter contained a report of the capture of the Pass of Balmaha by U-36 and the intelligence gleaned from its Warrant Officer by the Japanese steward. George is unlikely to have been aware of the letter's contents but he would certainly have realised that he was taking a great personal risk by agreeing to smuggle Harris's letter out of the camp.

Nevertheless, George took the letter, which began: *"I am entrusting this letter to Corporal Tritton as he is proceeding home badly wounded."* Harris

went on to describe his experiences on the Pass of Balmaha and to detail what he had heard about U-boat operations — including the news that Germany had 125 submarines ready to blockade every port in the British Isles.

By August 26th George had delivered the letter and officials at the Admiralty were writing to one another to confer how to reward him for his brave deed. *"This man took the greatest risk in carrying this letter,"* wrote one, *"I suggest that a benefit in kind, a watch, be presented to him,"* *"I concur,"* wrote another. *"Corporal Tritton would probably have been shot had he been discovered with the letter."*

While the officials were exchanging their 'minutes' and informing the Army Council of their proposal, George was interviewed by Field Marshal Lord Kitchener, the War Minister, and In November 1915 he received the Distinguished Conduct Medal The citation reads *"For valuable services rendered under circumstances of great personal danger. He was seriously wounded and has since lost an arm."*

An announcement published in the London Gazette on November 16th 1915 stated; *"His Majesty The King has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal to Corporal George Austin Tritton for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty whilst serving with the Expeditionary Forces In Flanders. No further details can be released at this time."*

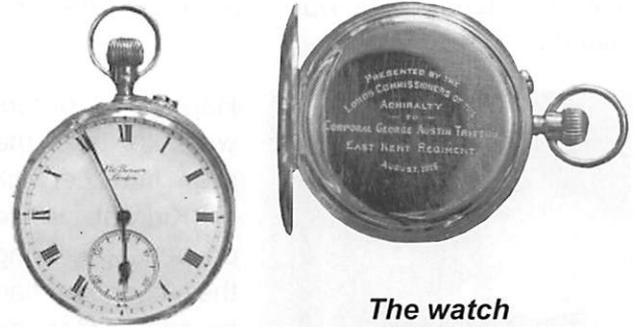


The watch, an open-faced 18 carat 'Ludgate' model made by Bensons of Ludgate Hill, took a lot longer to materialise but on February 2nd, 1916,

while receiving treatment at the London Orthopaedic Hospital In Great Portland Street, George received this letter from the Adjutant at The Buffs' Depot in Canterbury: *"The Officer Commanding has received a watch with inscription from the Admiralty for presentation to you when you are well enough to come here for the purpose. It is not considered desirable that any definite information*

should appear in the papers in reference to the services you rendered."

George duty reported to Depot The Buffs to receive the watch from Colonel Daughlish. It was inscribed *"Presented by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to George Austin Tritton. East Kent Regiment, for services rendered in August 1915."*



The watch

George also received the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal He was discharged from the Army in May 1915.

On Lord Kitchener's instructions he was offered a job as a messenger at the War Office but it seems that he either did not accept the offer or stay in the job for any length of time.

He and his wife Bessie settled in Whitstable

This story only came to light thanks to the research carried out by Dominic Johnson a genealogist and researcher. Previously, all that was known was that a naval officer to whom George sold cigarettes and the smuggling from Germany of some kind of intelligence, were somehow part of the reason why the Adjutant at The Buffs' Depot in Canterbury told George *"It is not considered desirable that any definite information should appear in the papers in reference to the services you rendered."*

No one knows what happened to Sub Lieutenant Harris or indeed if he and George ever met again.

(George Tritton was the Grandfather of Mrs Sylvia Tutt whose father and uncles also served in The Buffs. Sylvia is a very valued member of London Buffs and a stirring supporter of Association events. At formal events Sylvia proudly wears her grandfather's medals. The Editor)

The Pass of Balmaha

(A follow-on story from the previous article)

(Quite often when researching one article associated stories are found that are quite fascinating. The story of *The Pass of Balmaha* is one such story.)

The Pass of Balmaha which featured at the start of the article on Cpl George Tritton DCM, had a very varied career indeed.

Launched in 1888 she was used as a general cargo boat and sailed worldwide.

On March 15th 1915 she was stranded in thick fog and had to be towed into Bremen. Later that year the ship was arrested by the Royal Navy on voyage from New York to Archangel with a cargo of cotton and sent to Kirkwall, Orkney Islands, with a prize crew of six men and an officer.

On August 3rd 1915 she was captured by the German Submarine U-36 and sent to Cuxhaven with a prize crew. It was at this point, as you will have read in the previous article, that Sub Lieutenant Harris appears in the story. The Pass of Balmaha was renamed the *Walter* and was sent to Geestemünde and rebuilt at the Joh. C. Tecklenborg A.-G. Equipped with a 1500 hp aux. engine, two 4.2 inch guns, machine-guns and a wireless set.

Renamed yet again, this time as SMS *Seeadler* (Sea Eagle), she started her highly successful career as a Commerce Raider leaving Bremerhaven on December 21st 1916 disguised as the Norwegian barque *Irma* under command of Count Felix von Luckner.

Felix Graf Von Luckner was born in Dresden, Germany, on 9th June 1881 He was a German nobleman, navy officer, author and noted sailor who earned the epithet *Der Seeteufel* (*The Sea-Devil*) -- and his crew that of *Die Piraten des Kaisers* (*The Emperor's Pirates*) -- for his exploits in command of the sailing commerce raider SMS *Seeadler* (*Sea Eagle*) in 1916-1917. He was immensely popular with his men and he had a policy of waging war successfully without casualties which was to make him a legend on both sides.



Four days after her launching she was intercepted by the British Auxiliary Cruiser HMS *Avenger* 180 miles south of Iceland but surprisingly was not recognised as a German raider and was released - a costly mistake indeed.



On January 9th 1917 she captured and sank the British steamer *Gladys Royle* on voyage from Cardiff to Buenos Ayres with a cargo of coal. and later the same day captured and sank the British steamer *Lundy Island* 190 miles SE of Santa Maria, Azores, on voyage from Mauritius to Nantes with a cargo of sugar.

Ten days later the French barque *Charles Gounod* was taken and sunk by explosives. And so it went on, over the next few months she sank many schooners or Barques including British Schooner *Percy*, the French four-masted barque *Antonin*, captured the British four-masted barque *Pinmore* off the coast of Argentina, sank the Italian full-rigged ship *Buenos Ayres* in the South Atlantic, and sank the British barque *British Yeoman*, the French full-rigged ship *La Rochefoucauld* was sunk by gun-fire, and the French barque *Dupleix* suffered a similar fate.

In the period June 14 to July 8th, by then operating in the Pacific, the *Seeadler* sank a further 3 Four Masted Schooners all of which were American.

Finally on August 2nd 1917 she herself was wrecked by a tidal wave caused by an underwater earth quake while careened for maintenance at the Mopelia Island, Society Group.

After the war Von Luckner became a widely read author and enjoyed some considerable success as a public speaker mainly in America. During the 2nd World War he resisted attempts by the Nazis to use him for propaganda purposes and was discredited.

He died in Malmö, Sweden on 13th April 1966.

THE REGIMENTAL SERVICES OF REMEMBRANCE, PARADES & REUNIONS 2012

CANTERBURY REUNION

Sunday 5th August 2012

The Canterbury Service of Remembrance and Reunion will be held on Sunday 5th August 2012.

Tea and light refreshments will be served from 10.00 hrs until 12.30 hrs. in the Parish Centre of St. Martin's & St. Paul's Church Street, Canterbury.

Car Parking will be in Longport Car Park as usual.

"Fall In" at the Postern Gate is at 12.30 pm. There will be no inspection and the parade then marches out of the Postern Gate, along Burgate and into Canterbury Cathedral by the Christ Church Gate. A service and Act of Remembrance will be held starting at 1 pm.

This will be followed by a march past in the Cathedral precincts and a parade through the Butter Market and along Burgate to the Postern Gate where the parade will fall out. Members and their families should then make their way to Leros Barracks for a buffet lunch and an afternoon of entertainment.

There will be a band concert by the Invicta Band just after lunch which will be followed by other entertainment and a raffle. The afternoon's entertainment will close with the customary Beating of Retreat.

The Buffet (Self-Service) Cost =£7.00 per person.

To order lunch tickets please complete the proforma enclosed and send with a stamped addressed envelope to:-

The Secretary of Canterbury Branch,
Mr. Henry Delo,
38 Reculver Avenue,
Minnis Bay, Kent CT7 9NN.

SECURITY: All members attending Leros Barracks will need to carry their Association Membership card or some other form of identification.

MAIDSTONE REUNION

Sunday 16th September 2012

*(Note: This year the reunion will be held on the
3rd Sunday in September)*

This year the Maidstone Reunion will take place on Sunday 16th September 2012 and will commence in Brenchley Gardens at 10.30 hrs., with "Fall In" followed by an inspection and the laying of wreaths at the War Memorial.

Attendees will then move off to All Saints Church, where there will be a formal service and Act of Remembrance and Turning of the Pages in the three Books of Remembrance.

After the service members and their families should make their way to The Ramada Hotel, Hollingbourne for the reunion and a buffet lunch.

Cost = £10.00 per person.

During the afternoon there will be a band concert and a Grand Raffle.

To order lunch tickets, please complete the enclosed proforma and send with a stamped addressed envelope to:-

The Reunion Secretary,
Mrs. Jacky Allen,
3 Sermon Drive,
Swanley,
Kent BR8 7HS.

It is anticipated that car parking will be available in KCC car park as last year. Please apply for a car parking ticket see proforma.

LONDON BUFFS BRANCH

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

TOWER OF LONDON

Sunday 2nd September

This parade and annual Service of Remembrance, organised by the London (Bufs) Branch of the Regimental Association will be held on Sunday 2nd September 2009. The parade assembles at the East Gate of Tower of London at 10.15.

Should you wish to attend the service then please contact the secretary of London Branch, Mrs. Betty Correa, 34 Homer Road, Shirley, Croydon, Surrey CR0 7SB. Tel No. 0208 655 3040
Email jcorrea@talk21.com

LAST POST

Brigadier John Holman CBE D.L

(Colonel Crispin Champion gave the eulogy at John's funeral.)



John was born in India in 1938 where his Dad was a Colonial police officer in Calcutta and later the Administrator of Bengal College.

In 1948 following Independence and Partition the family returned to the UK. From Hilden Grange Prep School John unsurprisingly went to Tonbridge School where his Dad had become School Secretary (in modern parlance - the Bursar).

John excelled in Cricket. In his final two years he was wicket-keeper for the Tonbridge School 1st XI and from time to time opening bat in these two highly successful seasons. He also played Hockey for their 1st XI and was a stalwart of the school Rugby 1st XV. In the holidays he also played for Shepway Stragglers and the Babes

John must have found the time between playing sport to do some work, passing "The Civil Service Exam" and then to overcome the Regular Commissions' Board who forwarded him to Sandhurst; where again as a cadet he enjoyed much sport and was already showing his natural leadership as he was appointed to be the SUO of his Company. He was commissioned into The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, his regiment of 1st choice.

I first met John and his good friend, Hamlyn Whitty, when with single shiny pips and white knees they arrived in Cyprus in January 1959. These two were immediately enrolled into the Battalion rugby team and shortly after we won the Middle East Army Cup while militarily John led a rifle platoon as we contained EOKA, a viscous Greek Cypriot terrorist group.

Home by troop ship and very soon after John was jilted by his then girl friend. Her mother felt

sorry for John and asked him to drinks and there introduced him to Penny. Game set and match – they became an immediate "item" and were married in April 1961.

The Army cannot be criticised for not having a sense of humour as only six weeks later, leaving Penny in a small flat, John headed off to Kenya with the Regiment. Hamlyn Whitty has told me that John, with whom he shared a tent, wrote to Penny each and every evening.

The next military highlight was to be ADC in Chester to the Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir Richard Craddock, and then with Penny to rejoin the Regiment in Hong Kong where soon after arrival he was to leave her yet again while he commanded a tracker team in Borneo towards the end of Confrontation with Indonesia.

Dawn and I were to meet up socially with him and Penny in Germany where he was a junior staff officer at Lubbecke and there we first met four year old Louise, John and Penny's lovely daughter,

Next to Northern Ireland, as a company commander in 2 QUEENS under the outstanding CO, Lt. Col Jack Fletcher. Here John managed to defeat the dreaded examiners and was selected for the Army Staff College at Camberley, thus putting him on the career fast track. Command of Amiens Company at Sandhurst was the next highlight.

Although John and I served for umpteen years in the same Regiments; after Kenya in 1961 we were never to serve together again except for a few hours during The Troubles when in The Creggan of Londonderry in 1974 John took over command from me of B Company 2nd Bn The Queen's Regiment; Shiny B, the best Company by far!

He was soon to be promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and to command The 1st Battalion based in Germany but with Northern Ireland tours thrown in at frequent intervals; a highly successful tour and justly rewarded with an OBE. After a further staff appointment he went to Uganda to command the Commonwealth Training Team. Another Staff tour earned him a well deserved elevation to CBE and after a tour at Bassingbourn as Divisional

Colonel he was promoted to Brigadier and in 1989 to the command of 2nd Infantry Brigade which also required him to live in the somewhat draughty Dover Castle in his allied role as Deputy Constable of the Castle.

In retirement he was the Secretary of South East TAVRA, responsible for the upkeep of all the Territorial Army bases in his parish. About then the wise Allan Willett, our Lord Lieutenant until recently, appointed John as one of his Deputies, DLs in the trade, and mighty good he was too.

John was Chairman of Folkestone and Hythe Branch of our Regimental Association. He was the very well liked and effective President of the Hythe Festival and also Chair of Hythe Civic Society.

Sport was always very high on the Holman menu. When postings permitted he captained the Army and Combined Services at Cricket, played a mean game of hockey, played golf for the Infantry and encouraged his grandchildren to emulate him. Only 5 weeks before he died he was seen sitting in a golf buggy at Littlestone Golf Club where he was a long time member, coaching Barney and Jonty, his much loved grandchildren.

Barney, now in Lower VIth at Bedales and Jonty in his last year at Junior Kings, Canterbury, both excel in their school first teams at football, at cricket and tennis too. John (grandpa) relished their interest in sport, and telephoned them several times a week to chat - mostly about sport.

This year was Penny and John's golden Wedding Anniversary. This compares with the average British marriage which now lasts exactly 11 years and 6 months. What a gloriously old fashioned couple!

Penny laughed when she heard that John had listed one of his interests as gardening. She tells me that this was really restricted to grass cutting but he was enormously proud of an apple tree that he had planted. It steadfastly refused to produce apples until a couple of years ago when one lone apple appeared. Good friend John Sweeting came to visit and a few minutes later his flatcoat retriever walked in with said apple clenched in mouth. John, who had long since been determined to enjoy his long awaited triumph, immediately and using some military invective, extracted the somewhat

indented offering from the dog's mouth and ate it there and then!

To sum up John's life:

"A strong personality, with a commanding presence and a sense of humour, and a hearty laugh which put everyone at their ease. He was loud, confident and assured in an endearing way, but was never pompous. He could talk easily to anyone and everyone. He would stride into a room stretch out his hand and say "I am John Holman". Within minutes of entering a pub he would be engaging neighbouring tables in conversation. He was a soldiers' soldier and his men thought the world of him.

While as he would admit; he was not an intellectual; he was a decisive leader, excellent at planning and clear about what he expected of his subordinates. He delegated well, allowing his protégés to develop, to grow and to learn through their mistakes".

John had many friends and will be hugely missed. His passing leaves a massive void for Penny, for Louise, for his son-in law Mark and not least for Barney and Jonty.

John; You may be gone but will never be forgotten. God bless.

Colonel Peter Storie-Pugh CBE, MC, FRCVS

(The following obituary first appeared in The Times on October 27th, 2011)

Before qualifying as a veterinary surgeon, Peter Storie-Pugh spent more than four years of the Second World War confined in Oflag IVC - Colditz Castle in Saxony. Incarcerated there because he was classified as a prisoner who would persistently try to escape, he worked to help others break out of the castle but was never able to get away himself.

While studying medicine at Queens' College, Cambridge, he had joined the University Cavalry Squadron. On the outbreak of war he was commissioned into the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and sailed for France with the

6th (Territorial Army) Battalion to join the British Expeditionary Force in early 1940.

During the German offensive into Belgium and northern France in May 1940 his company was ordered to hold the junction of the Albert and Arras roads on the eastern outskirts of Doullens, north of Amiens. The determined defence sustained by his weary soldiers forced a German armoured column to halt, then take to the countryside to bypass the junction. He was later awarded the Military Cross for his resolute leadership.

Storie-Pugh was reported killed in this action but, actually only wounded, he was later taken prisoner and evacuated to the French military hospital under German control at Bapaume. On recovery from his wounds and recognising that transfer to a prison camp was imminent, he escaped from the relatively lightly guarded hospital, only to be recaptured and sent to Oflag IX at Spangenberg Castle on the east bank of the River Weser.

Together with two fellow prisoners, he got away from the lower camp at Spangenberg below the castle by cutting through the wire and swimming along a river close to the perimeter. It was an opportunistic venture for which the three were ill prepared and they were caught by a group of German railway workers as they made for cover in the Harz mountains.

The railwaymen were friendly and good humoured, inviting their captives to join them in toasts of schnapps, but the Feldgendarmarie who came to collect them behaved brutally. Thrown into the back of the truck to return to Spangenberg, Storie-Pugh was slashed in the face by a bayonet and all three men suffered blows with rifle butts. On arrival at Spangenberg, they were hauled into a dance hall, paraded before those present and beaten.

Because of his previous form, Storie-Pugh was dispatched to the Sonderlager - high-security camp - at Colditz. One of only the second group of prisoners sent there, he arrived on December 2, 1940, and was confined until liberated by the United States Army in April 1945.

Remembered by another inveterate escaper, the mining engineer Jim Rogers (obituary August 18, 2000), as one of the most cheerful prisoners in Colditz, he soon became an eager participant in a

series of escape plans. One particularly ingenious idea involved a manhole in the canteen floor through which prisoners could enter the drainage system to dig a vertical exit, thereby solving the problem of hiding the entrance and having space to distribute the earth from digging. This plan would almost certainly have got beyond the wall but for betrayal by a German sentry who had been bribed to look away from the exit point.

In September 1942 Storie-Pugh became the first British prisoner to be sentenced to solitary confinement in the newly constructed cells after being caught on a reconnaissance of an escape route through the castle lofts with Lieutenant Fritz Kruijnk of the Royal Netherlands Navy.

His medical training allowed him to work as a paramedical assistant in the castle sick bay and, in the later years of their confinement, he estimated that because of the high morale among the prisoners, fewer than 15 per cent were beginning to show the psychological effects of imprisonment.

Appointed MBE for services during incarceration in Colditz, Storie-Pugh returned to his veterinary studies and the Territorial Army after his release. He commanded a parachute Light Battery of the Cambridgeshire Regiment, Royal Artillery, TA, until the unit was restored to the infantry role and, on promotion to colonel, became the Deputy Commander 161 Infantry Brigade TA, 1962-65. He was Commandant of the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force, 1965-70.

Peter David Storie-Pugh was the son of Professor Leslie Pugh, CBE, FRCVS and Paula Storie. His grandfather had also been a veterinary surgeon and his academic promise at Malvern and as a Foundation Scholar at Queens' College, Cambridge, led him into the profession.

He qualified MRCVS from the Royal Veterinary College in 1948 and took up a research fellowship in the Cambridge department of animal pathology in 1949. His PhD in 1953 was followed by his appointment as lecturer in the department of clinical veterinary medicine at Cambridge, a post he held for 30 years. He became a Fellow of Wolfson College in 1967.

A member of a wide variety of bodies concerned with farming, he served as chairman of the National Sheepbreeders Association. Elected a Fellow

of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1975, he became the president in 1977 and was twice elected president of the British Veterinary Association, in 1968 and in 1970.

The entry of the UK into the European Economic Community in 1973 provided a new focus for his interests. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Federation of Veterinarians of the EEC and became its first president in 1975. He held that post for four years during which time he worked closely with the European Commission in developing the EEC Professional directive for Veterinarians. For this work he was advanced to CBE for his work in this field in 1981.

His fluent French and adequate German greatly helped in his dealings with continental colleagues. He was the first non-German to be awarded the Robert Von Ostertag Medal by the German Veterinary Association in 1972. In retirement he lived in France but a serious car accident in 1998 left him incapacitated.

His marriage in 1946 to Alison, daughter of the late Sir Oliver Lyle, was dissolved in 1971. He married Leslie Striegel in the same year. He is survived by her, and by a son and two daughters of his first marriage and three sons and a daughter of his second.

Colonel P. D. Storie-Pugh, CBE, MC, veteran of Colditz and former President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, was born on November 1, 1919. He died on October 20, 2011, aged 91

Major Patrick A. Gwilliam



Patrick passed away on Wednesday 14th December 2011.

At Patrick's funeral, Lt., Col Philip Critchley, a life long friend of Patrick gave the eulogy:-

We are here today bound together in our love, friendship and respect for Major Patrick Antony Gwilliam. Micky, Jane, Pippa, friends and colleagues of Patrick it is a great honour for me to speak to you about Patrick- the

soldier and gentleman, friend and honorary Uncle to my children.

The first time I met Patrick, was in the drawing room in one of the 'Tea Caddy' row of married officers quarters at Sandhurst waiting to be interviewed by General Talbot, the Colonel of the Regiment I was hoping to join. The other candidates were Richard Talbot the General's son and a tall dark and handsome senior under officer from New College: Patrick. I remember thinking I hope there are three vacancies on offer today!

Patrick was born on March 24th 1942 in Dorset. He was educated at the Oratory Prep / Clifton / and Sandhurst and generally followed the drum with his parents and siblings: his father Twink Gwilliam a much respected Brigadier in the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.

He served his subaltern apprenticeship in the 1st Battalion Queens Own Buffs The Royal Kent Regiment - which later became 2nd Battalion The Queen's Regiment -initially at Shorncliffe where together with Col Crispin Champion he received the new colours from the King of Denmark on the presentation parade of the newly amalgamated regiment - and later at Colchester followed by two years at the training depot in Canterbury.

Rejoining his battalion in Guyana and then moving to Hong Kong - with jungle training in Malaya before deploying on operations in Borneo. On return to Hong Kong water skiing and parties were irritatingly interrupted by Mao's Ts Tung's Cultural Revolution, riots and water shortages. However, despite these inconveniences Patrick much in demand managed a pretty hectic social life in Kowloon and on the Island.

It was during this period that he first met Jane Beyer whom he would later marry. During our last months in the Colony he was promoted and having successfully learnt to send morse code, irritatingly practised at the breakfast table, he became the Battalions Signals Officer.

Moving with the battalion to Northern Ireland via a short spell in Southern England he quickly settled into the routine of Irish Garrison life. During our first peaceful months in Ulster he developed an interest in country pursuits -initially riding and shooting - interests which remained with him all his life. He also snapped up a very attractive

girlfriend, unfortunately the granddaughter of a prominent Ulster establishment figure. Patrick, as the son of an Irish Catholic mother had to display some nifty footwork to maintain the relationship!

In the summer of 69, he left the battalion to become staff Captain Q in 39 Infantry Brigade at Lisburn, just in time to become a key player in developing the logistic support for operations in Belfast during the early months of the troubles.

After an exacting two years in support of these operations he rejoined the battalion in Germany. There followed, two very happy years as General Mike Reynolds adjutant, where still a bachelor, he played a key role in making it such a friendly and hospitable battalion and fun to be in. At the end of this tour, he married Jane Bryer and was posted to Fort Benning USA as the British Exchange Officer, a time he and Jane both adored.

Here amongst other duties he taught on the Infantry Advanced Course. This was a time he greatly relished and often spoke fondly of. Whilst at Fort Benning he used to ride with an American officer under the tutorage of General Patton's old groom. The groom with an exacting eye on their efforts would regularly inform them they were not quite up to representing their countries at the Olympics.

Subsequently his career followed a varied path - back to the battalion as a company commander serving in Belize, Northern Ireland and Gibraltar. He commanded his company with a wonderful light touch, professionalism, charm and wit his key ingredients. There followed a staff post in HQ Queens Division before becoming second in command in the newly established Junior Soldiers Battalion in Taunton. Further staff jobs in Aldershot and HQ UKLF followed.

It was during his time at UKLF that he and Jane sadly separated. Over the years following his divorce he enjoyed a number of close and loving friendships and was often to be seen with a beautiful woman on his arm but was never to remarry.

He now became involved, in once again setting up a new unit, this time as training major to a new TA battalion The Queens Fusiliers - now the London Regiment with Battalion Headquarters in Clapharn Junction. At this time to the amazement

of his brother officers he also took up serious long distance running completing the Oslo marathon and other long distance events. On one of his weekend visits to us in Kent he was leaving the house in a particularly frightful tight fitting lycra outfit when my wife asked him where on earth did he think he was going dressed like that: with a Patrick laugh he said Oh just off to give your neighbours a treat !

On handing over a largely up and running battalion to its first commanding officer he was posted to SHAPE where he would serve for four years. Perhaps his favourite posting, he certainly talked with great enthusiasm about this period of his life. - travelling around the major NATO Headquarters, distance running, skiing, parties and the companionship of a very special girlfriend his chief interests.

His final years of service were at the Ministry of Defence where he became an establishment guru and king of the new 'black art' of job evaluation.

In retirement he followed a wide range of interests. He became an ardent supporter of the Countryside Alliance. A keen shot he held a gun on a number of Army Shoots, and an enthusiastic point to pointer he also officiated annually at a couple of County Shows. One year at Ardingly, The South of England Show, bowler hatted and looking his usual dashing debonair self he had my youngest daughter on his arm when a group of young lads shouted out, "join us for a drink love, after you've dumped Grandad" - "In your dreams replied Patrick", with a wide grin as he marched her into the Stewards enclosure.

His other key areas of activity were supporting his Regimental Associations and local Civil Institutions. He took a real interest in his Regimental Association branches, becoming the West Kent Chairman of the Queen's Own Buffs Association and Treasurer of its Weald Branch. He loved to attend the annual events of both The Queen's Own Buffs and Queens Regiment Associations and became coordinator of attendance at the Cenotaph Annual Service of Remembrance for the whole of the new Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

More locally for nearly eight years he became Chairman of the Shaftesbury Safer Neighbourhood

Team: not always an easy task given the conflicting interests of those involved. He was held in high esteem by the members of the team particularly the Police; where he also served on the Wandsworth Police Consultative Committee. As a member of the Battersea Crime Prevention Panel he was involved in fund-raising - on the Police Ball Committee and helping with 'Sport in the Park' a project helping underprivileged children develop an interest in various sports.

He also became a free mason and was a valued brother of the Red Scarf Lodge.

Patrick had his disappointments, but with his resilient nature, charm, and great wit largely overcame them. His Knee injuries over the last few years were a severe trial for him, a trial that he bore with fortitude, aided by his unshakeable sense of humour. Over the last eighteen months he was able to continue to live an independent life in his own much loved flat, - but only with the tremendous support and efforts of Micky and his sisters.

Charming - infuriatingly pig headed and stubborn at times - generous to a fault - Patrick was very much a people person - things really meant very little to him, A skilled raconteur he was never happier than when chatting to friends, colleagues and old comrades, his warmth and friendliness shining through. A true Regimental man, instigator of much laughter, a dear friend to many, we will all miss him sorely.

Patrick received the last rights of the Catholic Church and died aged 69 on the 14th December at the James Terry Court Care Home of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

Goodbye dear friend, you have had a notable and fruitful innings, may you rest in peace.

Edward St John Brice OBE TD DL

Edward Brice, who died on 29 July 2011, aged 75, served as a National Service officer in The Buffs from 1954 to 1956. He was educated at Tonbridge School, where he played in the first XI and XV and became Head of School, and later gained an Honours Degree at Clare College, Cambridge. He became a farmer but was also a Lloyd's underwriter, member of Kent County



Council in 1977 and High Sheriff of Kent in 1980-81. He was Chairman of Kent Agricultural Society in 1984 and Master of the Skinners' Company in 1990.

Tall, well-built and popular, he enjoyed playing golf and tennis and was a member of three clubs, the Royal and Ancient, the Royal St George's and MCC.

He leaves his wife, Elizabeth, a son, a daughter, and five grandchildren.

His funeral was private and a Thanksgiving Service was held in St. Clements Church, Sandwich on 26 August.

Edward Cecil Hall:

(Mr Colin Hall, Eddie's son writes)



It is with deep regret that I have to tell you that my father, Eddie Hall, passed away peacefully on 17th July this year.

Dad was born in Pinner, Middlesex and died in a care home in Harrow on the Weald after succumbing to

cancer. He put up a brave fight and underwent several stays in hospital including a spell in Harefield Hospital for a heart valve operation prior to his main operation.

After the war Dad underwent his army training in Topsham Barracks, Devon and later went to Shorncliffe in Kent. He was posted to Germany and had some memorable times there. After his discharge from the Army, he worked for the Air Ministry driving large lorries over long distances often in extreme cold weather conditions in vehicles that had no heaters!

Subsequently he drove lorries for many years for Woodman's of Pinner and later for a salt company based in Ruislip.

His first wife, Betty, died, aged only 51, in 1983 and a few years later he met and married Ethel who sadly passed away in 1992. From then on Eddie lived alone.

Always a very jovial; man who enjoyed a joke. Forever very generous he was still buying presents for his grandchildren until shortly before he was taken from us.

Frederick Albert Anthony (Tony) LeMar:

(Alan Martin-Chair of Bromley Branch writes: -)



Tony passed away in The Princess Royal Hospital, Farnborough on 1st July 2011, after a short illness.

Tony was born in Canterbury in 1931 and later moved to London. After leaving school he worked as a labourer.

On 20th May 1949 he enlisted into the East Surrey Regiment, transferring to the Royal Fusiliers in 1950 and then into the QORWK Regt.

With them he served in Malaya for nearly 3 years before leaving the army in May 1954 having served five years with the Colours.

Tony met his wife Pat at the 'Homecoming Dance' that was held at the Royal Star Ballroom in Maidstone dancing to the music of Oscar Rabin and his band. Tony later walked Pat home and they married just a few months later in October 1954.

Tony worked as a long distance lorry driver but maintained his link with the regiment as a member of Bromley Branch.

Tony's funeral was held at the Beckenham Crematorium- the Chapel was full and the cortege was met by seven standards- a certain mark of the respect and affection in which Tony was held.

Arthur Richard Betts:



Arthur Richard Betts was born on the 29th May 1919. He was one of ten children born to George & Edith Betts and grew up on the family farm, now as 'Poor Start', on the outskirts of Eastry. He attended Eastry Primary School until the age of 14

when he left to start work, like his father before him, on the land.

1939 hailed the start of the Second World War. Like many young men at that time, Arthur received his letter from the War Office inviting him to go to Canterbury for a medical. He passed as fit 'A1' and joined the 2nd Battalion of the Buffs. After training they were shipped to France and then marched in to Belgium to a town called Oudenaarde. It was from here the retreat back to Dunkerque was made. He spent his 21st birthday on the beaches at Dunkerque, Not quite how we spend ours today!

It was only many years later, while Arthur was serving petrol at the garage, that he instantly recognised a man who turned out to be his officer from a reconnaissance mission in Oudenaarde. It transpired that he was a Lord and owned an estate just 3 miles away. They became great friends.

Back to the war years, and England. Arthur was one of four soldiers chosen to be a motor bike out rider for King George's Limo whilst the King travelled from London to a military demonstration in Surrey Woods. He went on to North Africa and having joined the 8th Army (the Desert Rats) fought at the Battle of El Alamein.

During his time in the Middle East he was ordered to take part in a motor cycle test. The circuit ranged about 25 miles on dusty goat tracks. Arthur was the first rider back and the Officers, unbeknownst to Arthur, had timed the race as they were looking to beat his time. No one was able to beat his time and all that he was told was that he was 2 minutes faster than anyone else.. He was awarded £2 from battalion funds for his win.

At the Tehran Conference in Iran, Arthur was escort to Winston Churchill as an outrider. At the Embassy the soldiers of The Buffs all saw the

world leaders at close quarters. Mr. Churchill, President Roosevelt and Marshall Stalin.

Arthur's only injury during this time happened in Iraq. An explosion near him resulted in Arthur spending days in hospital, leading to deafness in one ear. Arthur also received the Burma Star, but due to his injury he was no longer a front line soldier. He was finally sent on attachment to the Royal Engineers where he learnt engineering.

After the War he found settling down to so called 'normality' quite an adjustment, but he married Dora and they lived at Updown. There they started a family and Terry, their son was born.

Everyday Arthur would travel through on his motorbike to Nonington to work with his brother Charlie at Betts Brothers motor engineers and taxi service. The idea was to work hard and retire at 45. Arthur retire?????

As the business started to grow Arthur decided to move to Nonington, to the Old Post Office the cricket ground, and not long afterwards he had a second addition to his family his daughter Jean. Arthur's life was his family and the garage. Sunday was his only day off.

For the last 42 Arthur and Dora have lived at The Villas on Holt Street, Nonington next door to the garage. Arthur could always be seen and found over the garage working and serving petrol or in his garden. He didn't mind showing people around his garden or even swapping plants.

Now, there were times on a Saturday evening during the 70s when Arthur and Dora would put on their 'glad rags' and go out with their friends to American suppers or disco. Once the music was playing there was no stopping Arthur! He was no John Travolta but he found dancing the night away helped him loosen up after a hard weeks work, I'm sure a drop of whisky helped too! Also during this decade Arthur gained a son-in-law, Barry, and a daughter-in-law Sal.

Arthur had many interests, gardening, football, he was a Liverpool supporter and outdoor pursuits played a huge part in Arthur's life, especially walking through the woods and countryside with his brother Ted. Obviously Arthur watched all kinds of motorsport. From motor bike racing to motor cross, from Formula 1 to banger racing. When

Terry became Banger Racing world champion at Harringay, nobody was more proud than Arthur.

He was also proud of his 4 grand children, Craig and Jonathan, and, Anna and Paul, seeing them grow up to the adults they are today.

Finally, at 92 years of age and with over 60 years of married life to Dora, his pace of life had understandably slowed down. His character, however, remained the same as ever. Easy but firm if needed. Never angry, he loved to have a joke.. He was never one to complain.

Friends and acquaintances of Arthur will have a wide range of personal memories, as do his family so he will never be forgotten. In some of the cards and kind words passed on to us he's been referred to as, 'a true gentleman', a 'part of Nonington' and in one particular card he was called a 'legend'.

Goodnight Arthur, Husband, Dad, Granddad and friend.

Raymond M. Cox:



Ray served with 1 Buffs from 1957-1960 in Aden and Germany mostly as a side drummer in the Corps of Drums.

Joining the Regimental Association in 1990 he was a very valued member of London Buffs and became Vice President in 2008. He was also a very active and effective Social Secretary for the branch and organised many interesting and enjoyable outings and events.

Last year he proudly shouldered the responsibility as Standard Bearer for 141 Regiment RAC (The Buffs) when that standard was handed over to the branch for safe keeping. He carried that standard on the Association's visit to Albuhera last May.

He was also a member of Canterbury Branch.

Ray was a great character, very popular and always willing to help. There was never a dull moment when Ray was around.

He was a much loved husband, father and grandfather and a great comrade- we will miss him greatly.

FH/BD

Mr. Tom Jackson: A Kohima veteran, has passed away aged 96 years.

(Colonel Champion writes: -)



Tom Jackson, child number 8 of 10, was born in August 1914 in Woolwich. Leaving school at 14 he worked with one of his brothers on a fruit and veg stall where he met the beautiful Irene Harrison who he married in 1943 after being given leave from North Africa where he was serving

with 4 RWK; his Company Commander expressing surprise that he had found someone silly enough to marry him!

On return to the 4th Battalion he went with them to India where they fought with distinction in the Arakan before being rushed to Kohima where 4th Battalion won undying fame as the heroic defenders of Kohima holding up for fifteen days a complete Japanese Division hell bent on reaching the administrative base at Dimapur. Tom was Company Clerk to Donald Easten's D Company and also acted as his runner carrying supplies and instructions to the front trenches where he found himself in the thick of the desperate fighting and it was here that John Harman won his brilliant VC.

After the war Tom and Rene settled back in Woolwich where Tom went back to fruit selling before becoming a maintenance technician at Belvedere Power Station. After retirement Tom and Rene enjoyed National Trust properties and holidays in the sunshine until Rene died in 1999. Tom had one major failing - his devotion to Charlton Athletic!

He and his only child, Lionel, both died in December and were cremated together.

CGC

Mr. Kenneth (Kenny) Vine:



Kenny an enormously popular and valued member of Canterbury Branch, was one of the few surviving members of 5th Bn the Buffs which served with such distinction in World War 2.

Kenny landed in North Africa as part of the famous 78th Battle Axe Division and after the victory in North Africa took part in the landings on Sicily and subsequently Southern Italy. Wounded twice during the Italian campaign Kenny took part in most of the important battles including Monte Cassino.

After the war Kenny became senior salesman with Lyons and undoubtedly his great sense of humour and natural charm contributed to his successful career.

It was a great blow to Kenny to lose his wife of many years, Lily, but in true Kenny style he squared his shoulders and carried on. He was still marching in the various parades up until 18 months ago and his bearing, immaculate turnout and good looks belied his age.

Last year, as for many years, Kenny returned to Italy on the annual trip organised by Major Alan Marchant of Canterbury Branch, to pay his respects to fallen comrades.

He always sat in the same corner chair, close to the bar, at the Canterbury Branch meetings from where his impish comments, normally addressed to Secretary Henry, invariably caused great mirth.

It was indeed a great privilege to have know him and to have worn the same cap badge.

Major Niels Derek Poulsen MBE

late The Buffs. 10th June 1921 - 28th December 2011.

like his Danish father Niels and English mother Lily
Derek ^{was} and his two elder brothers, Peter and Alfred, ~~were~~ born in ~~Tsinan, Shantung~~ *Tsinan, Shantung* North China,

in Tsinan, Shantung Province,



~~Province, North China~~
where his father Niels had
commercial interests.

In 1926, their mother, Lily,
brought the boys back to
England to start their formal
education; ^{Derek} completing ^{his} their
education at Cranbrook
School.

In October 1937 the boys were 'naturalised'
under the British Nationality and Status Act and in
December 1939 Derek entered R.M.C. Sandhurst
on the last course for 'Gentlemen Cadets'.

He was subsequently commissioned into The
Bufs and was posted to 1st Battalion The Gambian
Regiment which later formed part of 81st West
African Division fighting in Burma.

Sadly on 11th January 1941, Derek's elder brother
Alfred, an RAF Blenheim Bomber pilot, was killed
along with his two crew when their aircraft was
shot down off the Dutch coast.

After the end of the war in the Far East Derek
served for 3 months in Palestine and in early 1946,
by then back in England, he met and married Mary
Veasey. One month later, in September, Derek
returned to China to attend an Army Interpreters
Course in Peking and Mary joined him a year later.
Their daughter Carola was born on 10th August
1948 and in November of that year the family
had to leave Peking to escape the advancing
Communist forces, with the other families sailing
to Hong Kong and the following year they returned
to the UK. In October of 1949 their son Nigel, now
deceased, was born.

A posting to the War Office was followed in early
1952 by Derek joining 1st Battalion The Buffs in
Egypt. That tour however was short-lived because
in June Derek was sent to HQ FARELF on the
Military Intelligence Staff. For his work during the
Malayan emergency, Derek was awarded the
MBE. In December 1952, Mary, with their four
children, including twins Charles and Joanna,
joined Derek. *in Seremban, Negri Sembilan*

In 1955 the family returned to England and Derek
served for 6 months with 1st. Battalion The Buffs in
Wuppertal, Germany. After this Derek was posted
to Cyprus for 11 months and then on to GCHQ

in Cheltenham before retiring on 1st July 1958
after 17 and a half years of commissioned service
during which his specialist skills as an interpreter,
~~especially~~ ^{Mandarin} of Chinese ^{dialects} took priority over
the call of Regimental duty where his instincts lay.

Derek and his family had established a home near
Canterbury, and his parents retired from a lifetime
of work in China in 1980 but his father, Niels, died
~~at the age of 70, five years later.~~ *

In October 1959, Derek took up another intelligence
based appointment in the Governor's office in
Freetown, Sierra Leone and Mary joined him
there, leaving the children in the capable hands
of Lily. ^{Derek's mother} Derek and Mary left Sierra Leone in 1961
shortly before the country gained independence.

In 1963 Derek joined the BBC External Services ^{at Bush House}
as a language supervisor in the Chinese Section,
later becoming Senior Producer, In 1973 he was
appointed programme Organiser in the Burmese
Section, a post he held for 5 years, retiring in late
1978.

In retirement Derek maintained his links with
Burma and was active in the Anglo-Burmese
Society and visited that country in 1973 and
74. His other interests were custodian of St.
Augustine's Abbey during the tourist season; he
was involved in the Canterbury/Rheims Anciens
Combatants Association and also worked with the
Officers' Association on welfare matters.

On the regimental side he became a trustee,
and later Chairman of Trustees, of The Buffs
museum and was a whole-hearted supporter of
The Queen's Own Buffs Regimental Association
in particular Canterbury Branch and became their
President.

His wife, Mary, ^{L.A.S} died in 1987 and in 1994 he
married Marjorie, and they eventually moved from
Folkestone to Melksham, in Wiltshire.

In 2005, Derek with other veterans returned to
Burma to visit the areas where they had fought.

A remarkable man.

(Cecil West)
CW

(Derek's father Niels died in 1955,
Spring 2012 five years after arriving in
England from Shanghai at the
age of 70, after almost a lifetime in China.)*

We have been advised of the following deaths:

Wherever possible obituaries will be printed in the next issue.

Mr. Bendt Ole Arndt:

Bendt, the Chairman and Secretary of the Denmark Branch, passed away on 4th November 2011.

Mr. Walter (Wally) C. Thundow:

Ex Buffs and member of Canterbury Branch.

Major Peter Crisp:

Peter who served in the QORWK's from 1940-42 passed away on 11th May 2011.

Captain Mike Gregory:

Ex Buffs.

Laurie Springett MM:

passed away in November 2011.

Mr. Kenneth Rickard:

Passed away on 21st May 2011

Major Frank Johnson:

Frank Johnson passed away on 30th August. He served in the Buffs TA, and in 5 Queen's (V) as 2i/c in the late 60's.

Major Harold Gatehouse:

Mr. Eric Hood:

Eric a Buff war time veteran passed away in December 2011

Sgt. Stanford Whitty:

Stan Whitty passed away on 11 November 2011 aged 91. (Please see letter in Write to Reply)

Mr Ronald Thompson:

Ex QORWK.

Mr. David Pope:

Ex RWK World War 2 veteran.

Mr. Sid Watler:

Ex WW2 veteran who served in the RWK. A long time member of Ramsgate Branch.

Mr. Leonard H. Dawson:

Leonard served in the QORWK from 1939-1941 passed away on 22nd October aged 91 years.

Mr. Emmanuel (Frank) Cini:

Ex Buffs from 1956-1959

Captain Henry Eric Ryall:

who served with 5th Buffs in Italy in WW2 died on 3rd January 2012, aged 89.

Mr. Keith (Compo) Compton:

who served in 2nd Bn. The Queen's Regt.

WO2 Michael (Mick) Gill:

who served in The Queen's Own Buffs.

Mr. Paul Donovan Garrick:

who served in 2nd Bn. The Queen's Regt.

Mr. Ray Collins:

Treasurer of Sittingbourne Branch.

Mr. Harry Ashcroft:

Mr. Peter Inglis:

Mr. Peter Robson:

Legacies Which Forever Remain

by Stan Cohen

From time to time one hears the apprehension expressed by 'old soldiers' that the younger generation do not appreciate the sacrifices that have been made by our servicemen over the years; Read on.

*Thousands upon thousands of nameless graves
Though unnamed your legacy is not forgotten
As we stand looking on with our naive eyes
We struggle to understand what you have been
through*

*Yes we know the sacrifice in which you have
laid*

*But are green to the tragedies in which took
place*

*The terror in which these boys called life
The losses which took place every second*

*Although at first boys, now men
Their strength of character in overcoming such
harshness must never be in doubt*

*An act of God in which shadowed all natural
disasters*

May their lost life's live on in heaven

*We study each name, one after another
But cannot grasp the life in which each soldier
lived*

*But ever so sadly lost
Never to be forgotten by his loved ones*

*How can nature still operate with the suffering
it has seen before?*

Is this Gods metaphor?

In which every tree that grows

So does the legacy of each and every single man?

*The flowers laid by family, friends or well
wishers*

*Signifying the beauty of each and every life
Yet the delicateness off the human state, in
which war has so affected*

*May our reef forever lay with our loved and lost
soldiers, may my words always remain with you*

An emotion never before experienced

A place in my soul unlocked

*Somewhere in my heart which are unknown
lands*

*Though I do not cry, my tears would be a lack
of respect to these men*

*How can one day in a year be enough such a
legacy?*

*When each and every man lost an entire life
All their hopes and dreams disappear as they lay
in rest*

*May we pray each and every day for their souls
so that they may never be, forgotten*

Stan Cohen



Stan is currently a third year student at Southampton Solent University, studying English and Media. His aspiration in life is to be a secondary school teacher and to inspire his students, in the way that he was motivated and given a passion for Literature by his teachers. He began writing when he was 18, two years after he suffered a stroke, and now views most of his poetry as therapeutic expression. He hopes to carry on writing his entire life, but his dream is to impact the Education system and pass on his enthusiasm for life to his students.

Stan, on behalf of us all in the Association – Thank you and Good Luck

NOTICE BOARD

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following who have now joined the Regimental Association.

Mr. K. C. Young	The Buffs	1944-47
Mr. P. V. Granger	QORWK	1956-58
Mr. R.L. Love	RASC	1957-60
Mr. P. Beadle	QORWK	1952-55
Mr. T. Raffety	5 Queen's	
Mr. D. West	The Buffs	1953-55
C/Sgt; C. J. Stamp	QOB/2 Qns	1965-88
Mr. B. H. Mitchell	The Buffs	1958-60
Mr. A. B. Andrews	QORWK	1954-56
Mr. F. G. Shepherd	R.E.	1947-49
Mr. J.P. Webb	RMP	1975-2000
Mr. G. J. McDonough	QOB/2 Qns	1966-75
Mr. R. D. Bushell	5 Buffs	1949-51
Mr. E.J. Lewis	QORWK	1952-54

AMIENS TRIP

16th May to 18th May 2012

All of the seats have now been taken. However there is always the possibility of a last minute cancellation and a waiting list has been started. If you wish to take part in this trip please contact the Editor for an update on availability.

440th ANNIVERSARY (THE BUFFS)

Parade & Lunch

2nd September 2012

To mark the 440th Anniversary of the origin of the Regiment, and in conjunction with London Buffs, a special parade and Service of Remembrance will be held at the Tower of London on Sunday 2nd September 2012. This will be followed by a celebration lunch at the Union Jack Club, Waterloo. The cost of the lunch is £20 per head for an Association member and his wife, partner or carer. For further details of the day and transport arrangements from the Tower to the Union Jack Club please contact Major John

Barrell by email on john.barrell1572@googlemail.com or by Tel 0116 244 8037

If you wish to attend the lunch then please complete the enclosed ticket application form. This event is likely to be over subscribed so do not delay in submitting your application form.

LONDON BUFFS SERVICE TOWER OF LONDON

(Please see 440th Anniversary notice above)

REGIMENTAL REUNIONS

CANTERBURY REUNION

Sunday 5th August 2012

&

MAIDSTONE REUNION

SUNDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2012

(Please see Regimental Reunions page)

CANTERBURY BRANCH

ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE

The annual carol concert will be held in the Franciscan Study Centre on Sunday 9th December at 2pm.

In 2013 the carol concert will be held in St. Martin's and St Paul's Church, Church Street St Paul's, Canterbury starting at 2pm.

ALBUHERA NOTELETS

There are Albuhera Notelets still available - order form enclosed.

MILITARY MUSIC OF THE HOME COUNTIES REGIMENTS

The Queen's Own Buffs Association

The Regimental Association recently paid for the production of a compact disc by the Band

of the PWRR which includes forebear regimental marches and other popular items, titled Military Music Of The Home Counties Regiments .

The CD is now on sale at a price of £10.00 for a single copy and £6 for orders of 5 or more.

To purchase please use the enclosed Order Form and send to Major Alan Marchant, 9, Payton Mews, Canterbury CT11JW. Tel: 01227 458264 or email: alan.a.marchant@sky.com.

Cheques should be made out to PWRR Benevolent Fund QOB (Nr.1) A/c.

FRIENDS OF THE BUFFS

If you have not already become a 'Friend' and would like to play a part in the activities that ensure that the name of the Regiment is kept in the public eye, then please complete the enclosed form.

Friends of the Buffs now have their own dedicated website. www.friendsofthebuffs.com

CHANGE OF MEETING VENUES

FOLKESTONE & HYTHE BRANCH

The branch will no longer meet at the RBL. An alternative venue is being negotiated. In the meantime please contact the Branch Secretary, Stuart Macintyre, Saffrons, Sunnyside Road, Sandgate, Kent CT20 3DR. Tel: 01303 240147 Email: stuart.saffrons@gmail.com

LONDON (BUFFS) BRANCH

Please note that London Buffs will, with immediate effect, be holding their meetings at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, London SE1 8UJ. Tel: 020 7902 6000.

The meetings will take place on the third Saturday in the month at 2pm.

For further information please contact the Branch Secretary, Betty Correa, 34 Homer Road, Shirley, Croydon, Surrey CR0 7SB. Tel No. 0208 655 3040. Email jcorrea@talk 21.com

BOOK REVIEW

The March East 1945-The final days of Oflag IX A/H and A/Z', by Peter Green

On Thursday 29 March as American armies approached the Germans emptied two POW camps near Kassel that held Allied officers and marched them eastwards.

The journeys of Oflag IX A/H from Spangenberg and its sister camp Oflag IX A/Z from Rotenburg an der Fulda do not form part of the canon of Nazi brutality. They were not death marches. However the experience of the prisoners was recorded by the prisoners and others who witnessed their trudge across Germany in March and April 1945. Against the expectations of the prisoners the German commanders were able to keep their prisoners out of the hands of American armored divisions travelling at many times the speed of the plodding columns. At the same time the Germans kept the men safe from the rogue elements in the collapsing regime.

For both camps the evacuations became an ordeal that they shared with their guards and the civilians they met at each overnight stop.

The camps held several members of (The Buffs) Royal East Kent Regiment, one of whom, Lieutenant-Colonel Ernest Edlmann's memories have played a significant part in the account of Oflag IX A/Z's march. Although he escaped after a week on the road his adventures did not end there and he spent a brief time in an American camp for German prisoners.

Lt. Col. Edlmann like the other five members of the regiment – Lieutenant-Colonel G F Holland, Private E W Hankins (orderly), Captain M I Hart, Lieutenant G Lane and Major FWB Parry, had spent over four years in German hands after the Fall of France. But the camps held men who had endured longer stays: men captured in Norway in April 1940. Although France in 1940, Greece, Crete and North Africa in 1941 and Arnhem in 1944 provided most of the captives, there were men captured after the St Nazaire Raid and in Italy and North Africa as the Allies advanced.

'The March East 1945 – the final days of Oflags IX A/H and A/Z', by Peter Green, will be published by 'The History Press', Stroud in June 2012. It can be pre-ordered on Amazon at: -

<<http://www.amazon.co.uk/March-East-1945-Final-Oflag/dp/0752471252>>.

Write to Reply



(The following letter was sent by Ray Cox's widow, Rosemary, to Frank Hills Chairman of London Buffs)

79 Elibank Rd
Eltham Park
London SE9 1GJ

Thanks once again for your help and support.

Yours sincerely,

Rosemary

Dear Frank,

I am writing to express my sincere thanks to all members who attended my husband's funeral last Thursday. I had not expected so many of you to be there, and all of the family were very moved by your presence. I know Ray (I knew him as Ed. of course!) would have been delighted with the guard of honour, the standards, and indeed, simply by the number of people who attended. His connection with the Buffs was always very important to him, so your contribution to his funeral was much appreciated.

I would also like to thank the members of the Regimental Association for the many cards and expressions of sympathy during Ray's illness, and particular thanks to those of you who visited him either in hospital or at home, those visits were very important to him and, always cheered him up during a very difficult time. Towards the end he was too ill to want visitors, but it is some consolation to me that he achieved his wish to die in his own home, surrounded by his family.

I know that many of you have kindly made donations, either to Cancer Research or Help for Heroes. These donations are currently being held by the funeral director, and in due course I will be writing to thank you individually. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, and again in due course, will let you know the total amounts which have been sent to those charities.

Finally I would very like to keep in touch with you and will look forward to receiving the newsletters.

3 Sermon Drive
Stanley
Kent. BR8 7HS

Dear Editor,

Would you be so kind as to publish this in the next issue of the Journal please,

I would like to thank all those who supported the raffle at the Maidstone Reunion in September 2011 and in particular those branches and individuals who provided such lovely prizes.

The event was a wonderful day, unfortunately I was not able to get to the church but I understand that the service was the best ever, I did enjoy the band concert and the two Singing Sisters, I thought that they were real Air Force girls at first. My feet were itching to get out and dance when they sang the old wartime songs,

Once more a lovely day and a big 'thank you' to all of you, if you didn't come there would be no reunion and we can't let that happen.

Yours sincerely

Jacky Allen

(Jacky is down to us to thank you for all of the hard work that you put in to make the reunions in Maidstone such a success. The Editor)

From the Regimental Web Site

www.thequeensownbuffs.com

From Angela Bromley:

Ken Bromley

Just wanted to say I was browsing the web site and came across a picture of my late husband, Ken Bromley. It brought back lots of good memories of Colchester 62/63.

Sadly Ken passed away 16 years ago with lung cancer but our son followed in his Dad's footsteps and thankfully didn't get in as much trouble as Ken.

Angela Bromley

From: Antony Marr:

antonymarr@btinternet.com.

**Re: Reginald Arthur Catchpole
CSM / Lt , WW2**

I am trying to find information about Lt Reginald Arthur Catchpole who enlisted in the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment on 16/3/1932 (no 6342338). He is known to have been awarded the DCM in 1940 during the retreat to Dunkirk whilst Company Sgt Major and was later commissioned to 2nd Lt in 1941 and Lt by 1944.

I am eager to contact anyone who has any further information about Lt. Catchpole, his family origins or later life.

Any help would be much appreciated.

Antony

From: Lisa Brown:

lisapoyner@sky.com

Edward (Buster) Brown

The Buffs 1959-1961

I wondered if anyone had any information on my late father when he served in The Buffs or any pictures

Lisa

From: Phil Eyden:

Email: phil.precambrian@btopenworld.com

11th Buffs at Dover 1941

I am a member of the Dover Western Heights Preservation Society, a small group of volunteers who caretake and open up the Napoleonic Forts and other remains in Dover. I have found graffiti belonging to a small number of 11th Buffs soldiers inside the old Drop Redoubt fort dated to 1941.

I am looking for any information regarding the period the 11th Buffs were stationed in Dover, or were protecting the shores in East Kent. I believe they were stationed at the Grand Shaft Barracks from early March for a few months.

I'd love to track down further information on the 11th to try and add some context to the names I've found and so we can tell their tale to our tour groups. If anyone can help, please drop me a line.

Thank you!

Phil.

From: Gwynn Felton:

Email: gwynnfeleton@westnet.com.au

The Buffs in Darwin

Some time back I queried whether The Buffs had served in the Northern Territory as I had seen some artefacts in the museum in Darwin.

Mick Mills stated, correctly I admit, that there was no mention in the Regimental History of The Buffs serving up the "Top End".

Mick I have since been googling and got onto a site Australia Vol 1 page 129 and I quote a part of it: -

"Captain Bremer, whose ship was accompanied by the brig, Lady Nelson, conveyed forty four convicts guarded by companies of the 3rd Regiment "The Buffs", then on service in Australia - and the Royal

Marines, to Melville Island and Raffles Bay (Port Essington)".

Port Essington was later renamed Darwin. Now I know why those artefacts were in the museum as well as drawings that were made. I was not able to photograph them as the curator said flashes harmed the drawings and pictures and besides there was copyright involved.

It seems that not all was ever entered into our Historical Records.

Regards,

Gwynn.

From: Mick Stanley:

Email: salandmick@yahoo.co.uk

Barry Payne

I am looking for Barry Payne who served as a National Serviceman in 1960/61. He did his basic training with Baghdad Platoon at Howe Barracks, Canterbury in 1960. Served in Kenya (1961) in 8 Platoon C Company. His father may have been a Brigadier

Regards

Mick Stanley

From: Jennie Walters:

Email: jenphil@btopenworld.com

Any WW2 veterans willing to talk.

I am writing a novel about two men coming back to Britain after years in prison camp, at the end of the Second World War (loosely based on experiences of men in regiments such as the Buffs, fighting in France in 1940) and wondered whether by any chance any veterans would be willing to share their memories with me? I'd be fascinated to hear about Britain in 1945 and what it was like to return there after years away. I'm based in London and Dorset but willing to travel! Many thanks in

advance for any help and information, which would be most gratefully received.

Jennie Walters

From: G. Towe:

Email: hillside@hotmail.co.uk

16th Light Anti-Aircraft (Queen's Own Royal West Kent's) Regiment, RA.

Can anyone tell me anything about the above regiment?

I think it was part of the Royal West Kents

My Uncle Sergeant Major John D Bird may have served with them in WW2

From: Chris Baker:

Email: postmaster@1914-1918.org

Bufs numbering question, 1914-1919

Could anyone with knowledge of numbering of the Buffs (East Kent Regiment) put me right on this? I've tried to sort it out by searching for service records of men following this pattern but have not come up with anything conclusive.

I'm looking at a batch of men who were renumbered in the series L/11600 to L/11699. Their medal roll suggests that all had previously served with different numbers, but they vary from pre-war regulars up to wartime enlistments with G prefixed numbers.

An example is L/9220 Arthur A Turner, who was renumbered to L/11675. As far as I can see he did not time-expire his original term during the war, so why was he renumbered and when?

Reply from Mick Mills:

Re: Buffs numbering question, 1914-1919

Those late regular numbers are post war numbers and may have been issued to men re-enlisting or joining as a regular from the new armies. After conscription started (contrary to popular belief),

regular numbers continued to be issued but they went to under age volunteers, mostly 14 year olds. There are some Buffs enlistment and discharge books at the National Army Museum which cover these men. I haven't had time to go through all the books but I noted that L10692 was issued to a 14 year old on 18/4/1916 and L11273 was issued on 12/11/1918 to a 14 year old. As your numbers are a few hundred later than this I would guess that they are post war regulars (or transferees from new army to regular) rather than young soldiers.

The last L number in my database is L13353 which was issued on 3/6/1920. The first of the 7 digit numbers was issued on 24/6/1920

I hope all that makes sense

Mick Mills.

From: Victoria Anne Wallace:

Email: annewallace7@hotmail.com

Fred Whittell:

My grandfather, Fred Whittell, was in 2nd Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment and served in Ireland in 1922. He was stationed at Newry, Northern Ireland. I would love to know anything about him. I believe he was a drummer with the regiment. Thank you.

From: Ann Christine Barrett:

6280253 George Thorndycraft

Is there any information available on the above?

I know that he was a Sgt in the late 1930's (38/39) rising to Major.

I also believe that he was mentioned in dispatches on two occasions during WW2.

The problem that I have is that his surname is spelt in quite a variety of ways and has made a search quite difficult. This is not just for 'a family tree' there is quite an urgent need for my 84 year old mother to contact his family.

Reply from Peter R White:

Dear Ann,

Have checked the History of The Buffs and The Queen's Own and there is no mention of anyone resembling that name being awarded two Mention in Despatches.

Do you have any other service details?

Best regards

Peter

Reply form Ann Christine Barrett:

Hi and thanks for reply. No, all I have is his name and number and that was from a local (Chatham, Kent) source. I know that he ended up a Major purely from my mother and that was from word of mouth. I suspect that the reference to that may be wishful thinking! The other name that is connected through the Corps is Wilberforce, but that may be a red herring too. Thanks for your help. Ann.

Reply from Mick Mills:

There was a George William Thorndycraft who served as a Private with the 1/1 West Kent Yeomanry and later the 10th Battalion of The Buffs during the Great War. He was born in 1892 which may make him a bit old to be the man you're looking for. His mother was Mrs. Florence Johnson

Mick Mills

From: Alan Ballatti

Email: a.ballatti999@btinternet.com.

Private: Louis Ballatti or Ballati

Can anyone help? I am trying to trace a Private Louis Ballatti who served in the West Kent Militia in 1856. Rumour has it that he joined The Buffs and subsequently died at sea either on the way to or from India sometime between 1858-1868

Many thanks,

Alan

FORECAST OF EVENTS-2012

FEBRUARY

- 7th SITTINGBOURNE BRANCH AGM
18th SITTINGBOURNE BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER

MARCH

- 16th QOB COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT
24th AGM SITTINGBOURNE/DARTS COMPETITION//SITTINGBOURNE BUFFET DANCE

MAY

- 12th CANTERBURY BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER – CANTERBURY GOLF CLUB
16th ALBUHERA DAY
16th-18th AMIENS TRIP
19th COLCHESTER BRANCH ALBUHERA DINNER
26th THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

JUNE

- 6th – 7th WEALD BRANCH VISIT TO THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

JULY

- 7th COLCHESTER BRANCH ANNUAL BAR-B-Q

AUGUST

- 5th CANTERBURY REUNION-
8th-11th CANTERBURY CRICKET WEEK

SEPTEMBER

- 2nd LONDON BUFFS TOWER OF LONDON SERVICE
2nd 440TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUFFS LUNCH UJC LONDON
2nd SEVASTOPOL DAY .
16th MAIDSTONE REUNION-

OCTOBER

- 27th RAMSGATE BRANCH DINNER AND DANCE

NOVEMBER

- 8th FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE WESTMINSTER ABBEY
11th REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY & CANTERBURY BRANCH CARVERY LUNCH –

DECEMBER

- 4th SITTINGBOURNE BRANCH MEETING AND CHRISTMAS PARTY
9th CANTERBURY BRANCH CAROL CONCERT
15th CANTERBURY BRANCH XMAS DINNER AND SOCIAL
15th COLCHESTER BRANCH XMAS DINNER

Rear Cover: Turning the Page at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of the 11th year

Photograph courtesy of Barry Duffield

